



Draft Terms of Reference for the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group

Name of the Working Group

Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)

Contact persons

Ivana RADONOVA (Bulgaria), Helga POSSET (Austria), Ann Katherine ISAACS (Italy)

Composition

The Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG) is a small coordination group composed of representatives nominated by members and consultative members of the BFUG and the co-chairs of each of the Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs). A representative of the WG on Monitoring is invited to participate in the group as an observer.

The group is composed of the following members: Albania, Austria, Belgium Flemish Community, Bulgaria, Georgia, Italy, Romania, EUA, EURASHE, EC and the TPGs' co-chairs.

In principle, the BICG Co-chairs should not be chairs of a Thematic Peer Group.

The BICG should represent the diversity of the EHEA and ensure a balance of expertise across all key commitments. To ensure continuity and diversity, there should be a maximum turnover of two thirds of the BICG members from one work-period to the other.

Purpose and/or outcome

The purpose of the BICG is to facilitate a coordinated implementation of the three Key Commitments. To achieve that, the BICG coordinates the work of the TPGs, and facilitates an exchange of experience and best practice between the TPGs. The BICG follows the peer support activities and reports to the BFUG on overall progress and any necessary revision of the peer support approach or methodology.

The activities should build upon the work and the results/achievements of the BICG in the period 2018-2020 and the outcomes of and recommendations for the work of the TPGs presented in the BICG Report.



Reference to the Rome Communiqué

From the Rome Communiqué:

In the 2018 Paris Ministerial Conference we decided to devote special effort to completing implementation of three "Key Commitments" essential for the functioning of the EHEA: the Qualifications Frameworks and ECTS, the Lisbon Recognition Convention and the Diploma Supplement, and Quality Assurance according to the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

*We reconfirm our determination to see the Key Commitments fully implemented. We ask the BFUG to continue to employ the **peer support method** to achieve this. We commit to the continued participation in and contribution to this effort.*

Specific tasks

- Coordinate the work of the TPGs;
- Follow-up peer support activities by keeping an overview of the composition and activities of the different groups;
- Seek to improve the Peer Support Approach for the implementation of the Key Commitments, including possible adjustments;
- Identify synergies in the work of the Thematic Peer Groups;
- Give the BFUG regular updates and an overview on the progress and effectiveness of the Peer Support Approach for the implementation of the Key Commitments, based on the activities of the TPGs;
- Prepare analytical reports to the BFUG on the activities of the different TPGs and the support for the implementation of Key Commitments as a whole, including operation (what works, what doesn't work), impact and usefulness;
- Prepare recommendations for further actions to improve the implementation for consideration by the BFUG;
- Provide an assessment of the usefulness of thematic peer groups as a working method, including whether they should be extended to other policy areas within the competence of the BFUG.

Reporting

Minimum of yearly reporting to the BFUG.



Meeting schedule:

Two meetings per year should be held, ideally three weeks prior to the BFUG Board meetings. Meetings can be physical or online, taking into account the availability of the BICG members. Physical meetings can be one or one and a half day and could also be held in combination with other meetings (BFUG or TPG).

Liaison with other WGs' and/or advisory groups' activities

- WG on Monitoring and any other relevant BFUG structures

Additional remarks on the Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs)

The objective of the TPGs is to provide a forum to support countries in working together to implement the Key Commitments. The TPGs should continue using the Peer Support Approach and build on the work accomplished during the previous work period.

Each TPG should follow up and update its overall Action Plan to reflect countries' progress and developments. Each participating country should prepare, update and follow their own Country Work Plan, coordinated with the TPG's Action Plan and objectives.

The countries and organisations should nominate representatives of authorities and stakeholders with relevant responsibility and expertise in the topic for the duration of the entire work period.

The co-chairs of the TPGs should be appointed by the BFUG and are responsible for planning, coordinating and reporting on the activities of the TPGs.

There should be up to three co-chairs per TPG, respecting also a principle that one country representative should not co-chair more than one TPG or the BICG.

The TPGs' co-chairs:

TPG A: Austria, Georgia, Latvia

TPG B: Albania, France, Italy

TPG C: Belgium Flemish Community, Romania, Kazakhstan