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Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

4th meeting

Online

24 March 2020

Minutes

List of participants

Country	Family Name	First Name
Belgium / Flemish Community (Co-chair)	Soenen	Magalie
Belgium / French Community	Hollela	Caroline
ENQA	Kelo	Maria
European Commission	Bartès	Marlène
Germany	Fohmann	Katrin
Holy See	Rosenbaum	Melanie
Ireland	Lynch	Orla
Italy (Co-chair and BFUG Vice chair)	Isaacs	Ann Katherine
UNESCO	Wells	Peter
UNESCO	Simionescu	Liliana
United Kingdom	Ritchie	Ella
BFUG Secretariat	Benedetti	Filippo
BFUG Secretariat	Ioimo	Clarissa
BFUG Secretariat	Lucke	Vera

Apologies from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, EI-IE, EUA, France and Kazakhstan.

1. Welcome and Introduction by the Co-Chairs. Approval of the Agenda

The CG1 on GPD Co-chairs welcomed the participants and thanked them for joining the online meeting. The Co-Chairs reminded the participants that the Italian government decided to postpone the Ministerial Conference, the Bologna Global Policy Forum and the Global Summit on Higher Education to November due to the dramatic situation caused by COVID-19. As a result, the deadlines previously set have been changed. It is therefore necessary to take stock of the new situation and establish a new timeline for the Group's activities.

The agenda was illustrated and adopted without modification.

2. Format for the Rome Conference (18-20 November 2020): Ministerial Conference, Global Policy Forum (GPF), Global Summit

Even though the Ministerial Conference, Bologna Global Policy Forum (GPF) and Global Summit on Higher Education have been postponed from 24-25 June to 19-20 November 2020, the programme of the events has not changed compared to the original one. The GPF is now planned for the afternoon of 19 November, in between the plenary sessions of the Ministerial Conference. The Co-chairs underlined that the six parallel sessions¹ proposed by the Group are confirmed. The Co-chairs also informed the Group that during the Global Summit on Higher Education, to be held on the afternoon of 20 November and on the 21st a workshop session is reserved for the CG1 on GPD. It was emphasized that this is a good opportunity for the Group to propose an issue of interest.

The BFUG Secretariat informed the members of the Group that an official notice will soon be sent to non EHEA countries to inform them that the event has been postponed and a new invitation letter, signed by the Italian Minister of University and Research, will be sent.

3. Global Policy Forum: Keynotes, Parallel Sessions, Feedback to the Plenary, mention in the Communiqué

The Co-chairs introduced the topic of the Bologna Global Policy Forum and presented the draft agenda.

Regarding the Keynote speakers, the Co-chairs informed that Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, who agreed to speak on 24 June, has been informed on the postponement of the Ministerial

¹ The six parallel sessions are:

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

Conference. The second speaker will be from UNESCO and has not been designated yet.

The Co-chairs invited the group members to comment and make proposals on the organisational aspects of the parallel sessions, such as moderators, structure and topics. A discussion followed among the CG1 members that underlined the necessity to identify moderators for each session who are both expert in the field and capable of stimulating and guiding constructive debate and sharing of experience among the participants. The BFUG Secretariat informed that some Ministers have already made known their interest to chair the parallel sessions.

The Group decided to create six CG1 subgroups in charge of the six single sessions in order to propose ideas for the format of the sessions, an introductory abstract or concept note for the topic. They should also propose questions to introduce the discussion, some possible speakers and moderators able to inspire the audience and to generate and moderate a real debate. The members present at the online meeting were asked to indicate their preferences regarding the session or sessions to which they would like to contribute. In order to involve all GC1 members, even those who could not attend the meeting, were invited to volunteer for one or more sessions by the Co-chairs immediately after the meeting via e-mail. The deadline to express preferences was set for Wednesday 25 March evening. It was suggested also to involve other BFUG groups, such as AG1 on Social Dimension and AG2 on Learning and Teaching in these subgroups. During the meeting the following draft division of work emerged:

- Innovation, new skills and their link to employability (Italy, EUA, Holy See)
- New (digital) ways of learning and teaching in a lifelong learning context (EUA, AG2, Holy See)
- Mobility of persons, minds and knowledge (Italy, European Commission)
- Untapped talent: opening up higher education and career opportunities to refugees (...)
- Inclusion as a driver for excellence (AG1, Belgium Flemish Community, Belgium French Community, United Kingdom)
- Building trust in a global context (Italy, ENQA, Holy See)

After the online consultation with all members of the group there will be a final definition of the subgroups. It was also agreed to schedule an online meeting in the first week of June to update on these issues.

Another topic of the discussion was the distribution of the delegates in the six parallel sessions in order to assure a good balancing. One possibility could be to ask each participant to indicate three sessions of the sessions they prefer and then to divide them into six groups of roughly equal size. The BFUG Secretariat informed that in the online registration process for the Conference each participant will be asked to indicate which

session he/she would like to attend and that it is technically difficult to have a preference system.

The necessity to guarantee time in the agenda dedicated to the non-EHEA Ministers that will join the GPF in order to express their contribution to the dialogue was also stressed. The Group discussed the possibility to reduce the time dedicated for the keynote speeches in order to create a new point in the agenda reserved for the Ministers. The CG1 members also agreed that it is necessary to select very well the session speakers, if there will be speakers in the format chosen, and moderators in order to inspire the audience and give the opportunity for a real debate. The CG1 suggested to keep in consideration in each session how the COVID-19 crisis has affected the higher education systems globally, looking at how they reacted and changed.

The discussion also addressed the logistic aspects related to the sessions, such as the capacity of the rooms and the flexibility of the structure. The BFUG Secretariat informed that each room dedicated to the parallel sessions can accommodate a maximum of 200 people. Regarding the organization of the parallel sessions, the space dedicated to speakers and guests and other logistical details, the BFUG Secretariat invited the CG to make requests that will be forwarded to the structure "La Nuvola" to check the possibility of implementation.

4. The Statement: report by the Drafting Subgroup and discussion of the Draft 2

The Co-chairs introduced the topic retracing the past steps of the Draft Statement: a first draft was presented at the [BFUG Board meeting in Zagreb](#) and was then shared with the BFUG at the [BFUG Meeting in Kyiv](#). Many interesting comments emerged from the discussion during these meetings and the Drafting subgroup came up with a Draft version "Draft 2xx". This version was shared with all the CG members before the online meeting and comments or suggestions were accepted until the evening of Wednesday 25 March 2020. The very tight deadline was due to the fact that the [next Board meeting](#) (which was supposed to take place in Lviv – Ukraine, but because of COVID 19 will be online) will be on 2 April. During this meeting the new "Draft 2xxx" of the Statement, as agreed by CG1 group members, will be presented. It is also to be considered that the BFUG Board and the BFUG are going to rethink the deadlines and the BFUG work as consequence of the date change of the Ministerial Conference. In this regard, the Co-chairs stressed that this will not be the final draft, as the Statement will certainly be modified and perfected in the coming months. Furthermore, the CG1 members agreed that the COVID-19 crisis is going to change many things in the education field and that the Statement should be adapted to reflect these changes.

5. The Global Summit on Higher Education: the CG Workshop; the ASEM workshop; other possible initiatives

The Co-chairs introduced the topic by a brief presentation of the Global Summit on Higher Education and its draft programme focusing on the various workshops already proposed by members of the CG. The Co-chairs underlined the fact that there is a session dedicated to the CG on Global Policy Dialogue and that it gives an opportunity to share globally the work done in the last two years. Since CG1 is a Coordination Group and therefore does not produce concrete outcomes that could be presented separately from the Forum and the Statement themselves, it was emphasised that new themes for this workshop could be proposed. The Co-chairs opened a brainstorming discussion in order to define a proposal for the workshop.

The CG1 members, after a tour the table, agreed that it could be a good opportunity and proposed to organise a session focused on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and how it changes higher education worldwide. The influence of climate change on education could also be discussed as it would be linked to the Statement. Another issue considered interesting by the members of the group would be to have an update on the ASEM-process; however this is already taken up in another session.

At the end of the debate, the Group agreed to organise a workshop on how the COVID-19 crisis and related events have had and will have an impact on Higher Education. The Co-chairs will prepare and share the template on this session with the CG1 members as soon as possible.

6. Actions and initiatives in the coming months: a Roadmap for the CG

The Co-chairs stressed that, given the recent events, there is a need to envisage a new workplan for the coming months that the Group should follow. The program agreed is however subject to possible variations based on the decisions of the BFUG Board to be held on 2 April 2020.

The proposed work plan should be used to arrive at the next [Split BFUG meeting](#) with clear and well-structured proposals for the Bologna Global Policy Forum programme, parallel sessions, workshop and Statement. The work plan approved by the Group includes the following deadlines and appointments:

- 25 March: deadline to send comments and suggestions on the Statement and to volunteer for the six parallel sessions.
- Mid May: deadline for input and suggestions about the six parallel sessions
- Beginning of June: next CG1 meeting
- End of June: next [BFUG Meeting](#)

Finally the Co-chairs asked the BFUG Secretariat to dedicate a space for the CG on the restricted area of the [EHEA website](#). The Secretariat confirms that this space will be created for all the group members as soon as possible.

7. Meeting closes

The Co-chairs thanked the participants for attending the meeting.