



Ministry of Education and
Science of Georgia

Task Force on the Review of the Rules and Regulations for the Governance of the European Higher Education Area (TF RR)

6th Meeting, Online

19 July 2023

13:00 – 17:00 CET

List of Participants

Delegation/Organization	First Name	Last Name
Czech Republic (Co-Chair)	Michal	Karpíšek
BFUG International Expert	Colin	Tück
EUA (Co-Chair)	Michael	Gaebel
European Commission	Kinga	Szuly
Italy (Co-Chair)	Luca	Lantero
BFUG International Expert	Sjur	Bergan
BFUG Secretariat (Head)	Edlira	Subashi
BFUG Secretariat	Ana	Zhibaj

Albania, Germany, and Romania sent their regrets.

Conclusions from the discussions in the meeting:

Presentation and discussion of the document: RULES OF THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA (EHEA) and the BOLOGNA FOLLOW UP GROUP (BFUG)

The Co-chairs reported from the discussions at Stockholm BFUG, and presented the main comments received on the Statutes document:

- The notion of statutes raised confusion and some misunderstandings, in that it could give the impression that the Bologna Process was to be turned into an international organization. It was



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underlined that that was not the intention, and it was agreed that a different term had to be found for rules and decisions that are reserved for Ministers.

- There was unanimous agreement in the BFUG to have only one document, with clearly distinguished sections for the parts to be adopted by the Ministers and the BFUG, respectively.

There were more comments and suggestions provided by individual BFUG members, some of which were placed in the footnotes of the document, to facilitate the discussion.

The TF discussed the document, and agreed on the following modifications:

- **RULES OF THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA**

- o Enhance the preamble, mention mobility. There is a possibility to merge the 5th and 6th paragraph "reaffirming the aim of the EHEA".
- o III Membership
 - On point 2.3, in the chapter regarding membership, it was decided that the first part shall remain the same, without the suggested addition concerning EQAR (option A), and option C shall be added to the text, deleting options A and B.
- o V Decision Making
 - Stipulate that voting is always a possibility and never excluded.
 - However, adoption of the RoP would hopefully not require a vote.
- o VIII Finances
 - Revise the part about the budget — to make clear that this is necessary only in the case a Permanent Secretariat is established.

- **RULES OF THE BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP GROUP**

- o II The Board of the Bologna Follow Up Group
 - Reference that the current Board composition was decided in the Berlin Communiqué (in text or in the footnote) and at least implicitly modified by the Leuven Louvain Communiqué (the double troika). It may have been explicitly modified by the BFUG, but current problems with the link to the BFUG documents from the 1999 – 2018 period make this difficult to verify until the links are restored or the relevant documents are otherwise made available
- o V Working Groups
 - Add an annex with the taxonomy of the current Working Groups and highlight the structure as it is at the moment.
- o X EHEA Communication
 - Try to elaborate, without being overly prescriptive, because it would depend on the Secretariat structure.



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- Compare the sections on the Global Policy Forum and the Ministerial Conference preparations and try to have a more aligned approach of the two sections.

Michal Karpisek would prepare an overview table that will allow better comparison between the new draft and the existing RoP.

- Circulate the revised document once more, for comments – the final version would be circulated to the TF by the end of August.

PERMANENT EHEA SECRETARIAT: CONCEPT NOTE AND OPTIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2023 BFUG

- Prepare a SWOT analysis for the Permanent Secretariat — overall rationale for considering a Permanent Secretariat, list of requirements, specifications and expectations.
- There should be two different types of SWOT analysis: one for Permanent Secretariat/ No Permanent Secretariat, the other on the advantages and disadvantages of the four options for the Permanent Secretariat (including consultancy company)
- The document should include a consideration of requirements that need to be met regardless of the model chosen for a permanent Secretariat, if this is the option chosen by the BFUG. It is important to be able to assess various options for a permanent Secretariat against these requirements.
- Duration: a minimum duration should be specified in line with the cycles of the Bologna Process. A “permanent” Secretariat should be established for a minimum of two work programs, even if a longer period would be desirable.
- Explore another approach to illustrate the budget that the Secretariat would need, in consideration of countries with different cost levels.
- Get in contact with the CoE and EQAR to ask about their proposals:
 - o Questions for CoE
 - Why were the specific options considered (Tirana, Lisbon, Venice), and not other options? Why was the European Center for Modern Languages in Graz not considered?



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- How will staff be recruited, in particular
 - recruitment of the Head of the Secretariat?
 - open calls for staff?
 - What is the role of the BFUG in the selection, development of TOR, but also in dismissal of staff, including the HoS?
- For EQAR, ask if they are interested in hosting the secretariat.
- TF members were invited to submit comments and possible questions for the CoE and EQAR.
- Later, include in the document a proposal plan to launch a call to the BFUG to receive proposals, keeping in mind that the deadline for expression of interest in hosting the 2027 Ministerial conference is December 15, and it would be important for potential hosts to know whether hosting the Ministerial conference will also imply providing the Secretariat for 2024 – 27, or for a part of this period.
- Circulate the revised document of the Permanent Secretariat among the TF by end August.

Schedule towards Board Meeting, BFUG in Madrid, and upcoming TF meetings:

- Deadline for Board Documents: 17th of September
- Michael Gaebel will attend the board meeting
- Have a debriefing after the Board Meeting
- Two upcoming meetings: one in the period 4-6 September, and then have a debriefing after the Board Meeting, during the period 9-13 October
- Deadline for BFUG Documents 1 November
- Have a regular monthly meeting until Tirana, the second Monday of each month, 17.00 – 18.00 hrs Central European time.
- Online webinar for the BFUG to discuss one or both documents? Consider the possibilities and modalities at the September meeting.



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