

Update from the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)

BFUG Board Meeting LXXIX
9 February 2022



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Summary

The BICG (composition, aims, meetings)

The TPGs (composition, aims, actions, meetings)

Challenges, topics of discussion and reflection



The BICG (2021-2024): Composition

Co-chairs

Austria, Bulgaria, Italy

Members

Albania; Austria; Bulgaria; European Commission; Italy; Romania; EUA - European University Association; EURASHE; plus one Co-chair of each of the following:

Thematic Peer Group A on Qualifications Framework and ECTS;

Thematic Peer Group B on the Lisbon Recognition Convention and DS;

Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance;

An observer from the Working Group on Monitoring the Implementation of the Bologna Process participates in the meetings.

The BICG is to be composed in a way representing the diversity of the EHEA and ensuring a balance of expertise across all key commitments.



From the Terms of Reference of the BICG:

http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG_PT_AD_ToRs.pdf

Overall purpose: “The purpose of the BICG is to facilitate a coordinated implementation of the three Key Commitments”

In order to do this: the BICG coordinates the work of the TPGs, ‘keeps an overview’, and facilitates an exchange of experience and best practice between the TPGs

Its activities and those of the Thematic Peer Groups build on the accomplishments and findings of the previous work period and the recommendations formulated in 2020.

The BICG “reports to the BFUG on overall progress”, suggests any further actions to facilitate full implementation of the Key Commitments, and in due time will formulate further recommendations.



Meetings of the BICG:

1. First Meeting of the BICG, 10 May 2021, online

The 2021-2024 Work Plan (Terms of Reference, deliverables and meeting schedule);
The draft Guidelines for the TPGs; Status Quo Implementation of KCs; European Commission support for TPGs under the Erasmus+ Program; Next steps.

[http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG%20 PT AD 1 Agenda.pdf](http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG%20PT%20AD%201%20Agenda.pdf)

2. Second Meeting of the BICG, 1 October 2021, online

Update from the Secretariat, the BICG Co-chairs and the TPGs Co-chairs; Umbrella Projects, EC support; Work Plans of TPGs /discussion of Templates for Work Plans/.

[http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG SI AM 2 Agenda.pdf](http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG%20SI%20AM%202%20Agenda.pdf)

3. Third Meeting of the BICG, 21 January 2022, online

Update from the Secretariat, the BICG Co-Chairs; Umbrella Projects and update on EC support, update from the TPGs Co-Chairs; Focus on TPG Countries' workplans/discussion
[Agenda not yet on the ehea.info website]

Regular pre- and post-meetings of the Co-chairs are also held.



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The Thematic Peer Groups: overall state of affairs:

Composition and the structures of each Peer Group have been established

Terms of Reference and guidelines approved

Meetings held: first and second meetings held

All TPGs submitted Umbrella Projects for EC support

All TPG workplans were submitted by end of October

Countries were to submit their workplans by January 2022: many have done so.



TPG A

Co-chairs

Austria
Georgia
Latvia

Members – 35

30 countries: Albania; Andorra; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium Flemish Community; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Estonia; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Kazakhstan; Latvia; Malta; The Netherlands; North Macedonia; Poland; Romania; Russia; San Marino; Slovakia; Spain; Turkey; United Kingdom/Scotland.

5 organisations: Council of Europe; EI-ETUCE, ESU, EURASHE, European Commission



TPG A:

Specific thematic indications include:

Self-certification of the national qualification frameworks the overarching Qualifications Framework of the EHEA,

Complete implementation of the ECTS User's Guide,

Short cycle higher education,

Multiple purposes and use of the qualifications frameworks by the stakeholders,

Study programmes outside of the Bologna three-cycle structure,

Relationship between the qualifications frameworks and quality assurance.

<http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-A-QF>



TPG A - actions

4 TPG A meetings

4 PLA meetings:

- Linkage of QF and Micro-credentials

- Learning outcomes and ECTS

- Self-certification

- Assessment of learning outcomes on programme level

3 working groups:

- Micro-credentials

- Self-certification

- Short Cycle Higher Education

Survey among members of TPG regarding work plans

First Meeting, 7 June 2021, online

Second Meeting, 4 November 2021, online

Country workplans due mid-January, 10 still missing



TPG B

Co-chairs

Albania

France

Italy

Members – 47

39 countries: Albania; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium Flemish Community; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Holy See; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Kazakhstan; Latvia; Lithuania; Malta; Moldova; The Netherlands; North Macedonia; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russia; San Marino; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Ukraine; United Kingdom

8 organisations: Council of Europe; EI-ETUCE, EQAR, ESU, EUA, EURASHE, European Commission; UNESCO





TPG B

Specific thematic indications include:

- Establishing the legal framework to allow the implementation of the LRC;
- Establishing the distribution of work and responsibilities among the competent institutions that have the right knowledge and capacity to carry out recognition procedures;
- Achieving automatic recognition;
- Recognition of alternative pathways;
- Fair recognition of qualifications held by refugees;
- Optimising the potential of digital technology for the recognition agenda and the Diploma Supplement.

<http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-B-LRC>

TPG B - actions

- Seven TPG B meetings
- 3 public seminars
- Ad hoc peer support and Staff mobility
- Survey among members of TPG regarding work plans

First Meeting: 14 September 2021, online (28 countries, 6 consultative members)

Second Meeting: 18 January 2022, online (28 countries, 5 consultative members)

Third meeting: June 2022

25 country profiles completed, 22 not

<http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-B-LRC>



TPG C

Co-chairs

Belgium/Flemish Community

Romania

Kazakhstan

Members – 47

40 countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium/Flemish Community, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, UK – Scotland

7 organisations: EI-ETUCE, ENQA, EQAR, ESU, EUA, EURASHE, European Commission



TPG C

Specific thematic indications include:

Legislative framework in line with the ESG (introducing changes);
Ensuring effectiveness of internal quality assurance arrangements, including the use of QA results in the decision-making process and quality culture as well as links to learning and teaching;
The role and engagement of stakeholders in internal and external QA (students, teachers, employers);
Cross-border QA,
European Approach to the QA of joint programmes.

**First Meeting of the TPG C on QA, 30 June 2021, online
Webinar on Staff mobility, 19 October 2021**

16 countries have sent their country plan; 26 have not.
<http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-C-QA>



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TPG C

6 TPG meetings for all members

Meeting planned for 16-19 May 2022

3 PLAs (to start in September 2022):

Aligning the legal framework with the ESG

Cross-border QA (CBQA) and QA of transnational education (TNE)

Cross-border QA of the European Approach and QA of joint programmes

Staff mobility (call in May June 2022)

<http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-C-QA>



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Challenges, topics of discussion and reflection

In a generally positive context, matters for discussion and consideration are

- when Erasmus projects can start
- how to improve participation in the TPG activities
- how to stimulate less active countries
- how to ensure that the participation of a country in 2 or more TPGs is coordinated
- how to ensure that both those 'needing support' and those 'willing to give it' contribute fully and pro-actively
- how to ensure that the 'basics' of the Key Commitments continue to be at the centre of the TPGs' attention, while not stifling the natural desire to focus on 'trendy' (but also relevant and important) side issues

On behalf of the BICG

Helga Posset (Austria)
Ivana Radonova (Bulgaria)
Ann Katherine Isaacs (Italy)

Thank you!

