

## **WORK PROGRAMME 2005-2007 FOR THE BOLOGNA FOLLOW UP GROUP**

### **Introduction**

1. We recently asked for comments on the draft Work Programme, expressions of interest to take part in working groups and bids for Bologna policy development seminars. We are grateful for the comments we received. We have revised draft Work Programme to reflect those comments.
2. BFUG is invited to discuss and agree the Bologna Work Programme for 2005-2007 detailed below and attached in full at Annex A.

### **Taking forward the Bergen Communiqué**

3. In the Bergen Communiqué, Ministers endorsed the follow up structure set up after Berlin and charged BFUG with a number of specific tasks. The Bergen Communiqué also set out Ministerial priorities for the period 2005-2007 and made clear that they expect progress against these priorities to be reported at the next Ministerial conference in London in May 2007.
4. In drafting the Work Programme for 2005-2007, we have drawn on the approach taken to the last Bologna Follow up Group Work Programme. We are proposing that the Work Programme includes:

- working groups
- policy development seminars
- projects
- discussions at BFUG meetings.

In addition, there will be a number of other Bologna related events. They will be advertised on the Bologna website at [www.dfes.gov.uk/bologna](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bologna) Where appropriate, feedback from these events can be relayed to BFUG for consideration.

### **Working Groups**

5. We are proposing 6 working groups, each with a membership of around six to eight members. An outline of each is given below.
  - Stocktaking: this group will build on the experience of the last stocktaking working group, developing criteria for the next stocktake in line with the priorities for stocktaking outlined in the Bergen Communiqué and preparing a report for Ministers for the London summit.
  - Elaborate and agree on a strategy for the external dimension: this group will develop a strategy on the external dimension for agreement by BFUG. It will also organise a conference on the external dimension.

- Report on comparable data on mobility of staff and students as well as on the social and economic situation of students, as a basis for future stocktaking; this group will identify existing data sets, consider how comparable they are and identify any gaps between existing data sets, producing a report for Ministers by May 2007.
- Mobility and portability of loans and grants; this group will explore the technical, practical, and legal issues relating to the portability of loans and grants.
- Report on implementation and further development of overarching qualifications framework: this group will consider what further development of the framework may be required, particularly the linkage between national frameworks and the overarching framework. It could also provide assistance to participating countries working to introduce national frameworks and support this aspect of the stocktaking exercise.
- London Communiqué Drafting Group: this group will take responsibility for preparing the London Communiqué for agreement by BFUG and subsequently by Ministers.

6. With the exception of the London Communiqué Drafting Group, all working groups will start work immediately after the October BFUG meeting. Chairs have been asked to prepare BFUG draft Terms of Reference and outline their intended approach at the October BFUG meeting.

7. In inviting expressions of interest to take part in these working groups, we have tried to achieve balanced representation across the 45 countries participating in the Bologna Process. Membership of the Stocktaking and Qualifications Framework working groups has been designed to ensure some continuity in membership from the previous working groups, while also allowing some other countries to take part. Where appropriate, experts will be invited to support working groups.

8. A member of the Secretariat will support each working group.

9. The BFUG chair will have a standing invitation to attend any working group meeting during their Chairmanship of BFUG.

**10. BFUG is invited to:**

- agree the inclusion of the 6 working groups in the Work Programme
- agree the membership of each working group
- agree the suggested approach outlined by each Chair.

**Seminars**

11. Bologna seminars have been an important dimension within the Bologna Process. They have allowed engagement and participation across a wide range of stakeholders and ensured the “bottom-up” nature of the Process. However, now that

the focus is on implementation rather than agreeing common goals, we expected there to be fewer policy development seminars in the Work Programme than previously. This approach was broadly agreed at the last meeting of both BFUG and the Bologna Board.

12. Taking the priorities outlined in the Bergen Communiqué as a starting point, and the criteria for Bologna seminars agreed by BFUG in March 2004, we invited bids for policy development seminars to be included in the Work Programme for 2005-2007.

13. We received a total of 11 bids for seminars. From the bids submitted, we propose that the following are included in the Work Programme:

- Preparing students for the labour market and lifelong learning – promoting employability of graduates with bachelor qualifications (UK)
- Attractiveness of the EHEA (Holy See)
- Recognition of prior learning and recognition of European degrees outwith Europe (Latvia/CoE)
- External dimension (Norway)
- Doctoral Programmes Follow Up (EUA/France)
- Making Bologna a reality – staff mobility (EI Pan European Structure)
- Joint degrees – a hallmark of EHEA (Germany).

14. The selection of these seminars has been based on the priorities outlined in the Bergen Communiqué. They address areas which are either to be part of the next stocktaking exercise or have not yet been fully explored in a Bologna seminar.

**15. BFUG is invited to:**

- agree the list of Bologna policy development seminars given above.

### **Other events**

16. Over and above the seminars included in the Bologna Work Programme, there will be a considerable number of other events associated with the creation of the European Higher Education Area. This will include seminars designed to share good practice at regional, national or European level: for example, the event on HE governance organised by the Council of Europe. There may also be regional events, where a number of countries come together to discuss in detail how to implement Bologna reforms.

17. All such events will be advertised on the Bologna website, as has been the practice over the last two years. Where appropriate, feedback from these events can be relayed via the Secretariat to BFUG for consideration.

18. The table at Annex A includes events notified to the Secretariat in response to the request for comments on the draft Work Programme. On receipt of confirmed details from organisers, we will be pleased to advertise these events on the Bologna website.

19. BFUG members who suggested seminars that are not to be included in the Work Programme may wish to consider whether they could take place as another Bologna event. This includes the following topics:

- Beyond 2010 (ESIB)
- Quality assurance (Germany)
- Doctoral studies and the promotion of young scientists (Germany)
- Students needs in the Bologna Process (Russia).

**20. BFUG is invited to:**

- note that there will be a number of other Bologna related events advertised on the Bologna website.

### **Projects**

21. There are two specific projects defined in Bergen Communiqué, assigned to ENQA and EUA respectively. Both have been incorporated into the Work Programme. ENQA and EUA have been invited to outline how they intend to take forward their respective projects at the October BFUG and to present progress reports at each BFUG meeting thereafter.

22. Draft Terms of Reference for the EUA project are attached for comment and agreement at Annex B.

23. ENQA has outlined how it intends to approach its task in a letter from Christian Thune dated 12 September (BFUG7 5b). BFUG is asked to comment on and agree the approach being suggested by ENQA.

**24. BFUG is invited to:**

- agree the draft Terms of Reference for the EUA project
- agree the approach to the ENQA task.

### **Discussions at BFUG meetings**

25. With the work of BFUG focusing increasingly on implementation and sharing good practice, we expect that discussions at BFUG meetings will be a more significant part of the Work Programme than in the past. We propose that discussions are based on papers commissioned or prepared by the Secretariat and circulated prior to the meeting. An appropriate member of BFUG will be invited to introduce each discussion.

26. We received a considerable number of suggested topics for discussion at BFUG. They are listed below.

- Share expertise to build capacity at institutional and government level (Oct BFUG)
- Assisting the new participating countries to implement the goals of the Process (Oct BFUG)

- Portability of grants and loans (Oct BFUG)
- Exploration of arrangements to support the Process beyond 2010.
- Awarding professional and academic titles – using new three cycle degree system
- Future development of EHEA post 2010 – global and European competition/co-operation, academic mobility etc?
- Social dimension
- European dimension (including joint degrees)
- Staff mobility
- Mobility
- Implementation of ENQA Standards and Guidelines on Quality Assurance
- Implementation of National Qualifications Frameworks.

27. We propose that the Board is asked to prioritise the topics for discussion when it next meets in January 2006, based on proposals from the Secretariat. The final list will be presented at the April BFUG meeting for agreement.

**28. BFUG is invited to:**

- note that the Board will prioritise the list of suggested topics for discussion at future BFUG meetings
- indicate whether they would like to lead any of the discussions.

**National priorities**

29. In addition, we have detailed the priorities to be taken forward at national level by higher education institutions, student bodies, social partners, national governments and their agencies. We expect that these elements will be clustered appropriately and used as the basis of the National Reports and the stocktaking exercise that will be produced for the London Ministerial Conference. These elements will, of course, be discussed in greater depth at a future BFUG meeting once the Stocktaking Working Group is under way. At present, we anticipate that a draft format for National Reports and draft criteria for the stocktaking exercise will be available for discussion at the April BFUG meeting.

**30. BFUG is invited to:**

- agree the elements that will be taken forward at National level
- note that the elements will be clustered and used as the basis of the National reports and the Stocktaking exercise
- note that stocktaking will be discussed at the next BFUG meeting.

**Reviewing progress**

31. We will review progress against the Work Programme at every BFUG meeting. This will involve written or verbal reports from the chair of each working group and from ENQA and EUA. In addition, BFUG will be invited to consider the

conclusions of each Bologna policy development seminar and other appropriate events.

### **Conclusion**

32. BFUG is invited to agree the Bologna Work Programme for 2005-2007 attached at Annex A.

Bologna Secretariat  
September 2005