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# Terms of Reference

# of

# the Working Group on New EHEA goals

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| **Name of the Working Group**  Working Group on New EHEA goals |
| **Contact persons (proposed Co-Chairs)**  TBD |
| **Composition of the Steering Committee**  TBD |
| **Composition of the WG**  TBD[[1]](#footnote-1)  *WG members participating/organising actively in one or more events, such as conferences, seminars, peer learning* |
| **Purpose and/or outcome**  In a perspective of renewing the vision of the EHEA, the Working Group on New EHEA goals will be dedicated to defining new priorities for the future of the EHEA (based on the goals in the Yerevan communiqué). The group serves as a platform for innovation. The topics are focussed on new ideas with a European perspective. The events should contribute to policy development and provide policy recommendations. The national and European stakeholders will be involved in the activities in order to encourage broad exchange and later, implementation on the ground. |
| **Working methods**  The WG is supported by a steering committee. It is mandated to organise various actions and events in a perspective of renewing the vision of the EHEA (e.g. conference, seminar, pathfinder group etc). *The topics mentioned below will lead to concrete actions with a view to contributing to policy development.* The activities will involve the main national and European stakeholders. |
| **Reference to the Yerevan Communiqué**   * **Enhancing the quality and relevance of learning and teaching** is the main mission of the EHEA. We will encourage and support higher education institutions and staff in promoting pedagogical innovation in student-centred learning environments and in fully exploiting the potential benefits of digital technologies for learning and teaching. We will promote a stronger link between teaching, learning and research at all study levels, and provide incentives for institutions, teachers and students to intensify activities that develop creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. Study programmes should enable students to develop the competences that can best satisfy personal aspirations and societal needs, through effective learning activities. These should be supported by transparent descriptions of learning outcomes and workload, flexible learning paths and appropriate teaching and assessment methods. It is essential to recognize and support quality teaching, and to provide opportunities for enhancing academics’ teaching competences. Moreover, we will actively involve students, as full members of the academic community, as well as other stakeholders, in curriculum design and in quality assurance. * **Fostering the employability of graduates** **throughout their working lives** in rapidly changing labour markets - characterized by technological developments, the emergence of new job profiles, and increasing opportunities for employment and self-employment - is a major goal of the EHEA. We need to ensure that, at the end of each study cycle, graduates possess competences suitable for entry into the labour market which also enable them to develop the new competences they may need for their employability later in throughout their working lives. We will support higher education institutions in exploring diverse measures to reach these goals, e.g. by strengthening their dialogue with employers, implementing programmes with a good balance between theoretical and practical components, fostering the entrepreneurship and innovation skills of students and following graduates’ career developments. We will promote international mobility for study and placement as a powerful means to expand the range of competences and the work options for students. * **Making our systems more inclusive** is an essential aim for the EHEA as our populations become more and more diversified, also due to immigration and demographic changes. We undertake to widen participation in higher education and support institutions that provide relevant learning activities in appropriate contexts for different types of learners, including lifelong learning. We will improve permeability and articulation between different education sectors. We will enhance the social dimension of higher education, improve gender balance and widen opportunities for access and completion, including international mobility, for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. We will provide mobility opportunities for students and staff from conflict areas, while working to make it possible for them to return home once conditions allow. We also wish to promote the mobility of teacher education students in view of the important role they will play in educating future generations of Europeans. * The EHEA has a key role to play in addressing these challenges and maximizing these opportunities through European collaboration and exchange, by pursuing common goals and in dialogue with partners around the globe. * We ask the BFUG […] to involve higher education practitioners in its work programme […]. * […] we take this opportunity to underline the importance of all members and consultative members participating fully in the work of the BFUG and contributing to the EHEA work programme. |
| **Specific tasks**  The steering committee assisted by the BFUG secretariat   * gathers topics with a European dimension, proposed by BFUG members and consultative members.   The Working Group, together with the steering committee,   * agree on which topics to pursue and what approach to take.   To prepare a coherent programme of events, the Working Group gives consideration to the references in the Yerevan Communiqué.  The steering committee   * Assists in the organization of events (at least one steering committee member per event), * Assists in the application for financial help, together with the BFUG secretariat (if applicable), * Coordinates and follows up on the events, * Ensures the involvement of national and European stakeholders in the organization of the event, the attendance of the events and /or active participation in drafting common policies, * takes stock and analyses feedback and results, * cooperates closely with other WG or board committee members to allow coherence and synergy and to avoid duplication of work.   The final reports/conclusions and policy recommendations are prepared by the steering committee and discussed in the WG meetings. The WG reports back to the BFUG. |
| **Topics**   * Digital and pedagogical innovations * EHEA-ERA / Knowledge triangle / role of higher education and research in society and for European citizenship * Build more inclusive systems: gender, immigration, demographic changes * Dialogue with employers: vocational and higher Education ; LLL, role of Higher Education in economy * Professional recognition * EHEA 2025 |
| **Reporting**  Minutes of working group meetings will be made available to the BFUG.  The steering committee, assisted by the WG, will present regular updates on each activity (such as seminar, conference, pathfinder group) to the BFUG.  In between meetings, updates should be circulated by the Bologna Secretariat via e-mail. The final report will be presented and discussed at the BFUG meeting at the latest in the second half of 2017. |
| **Meeting schedule:**  [meeting schedule is just tentative, will be decided by the working group at a later stage]  [working group meetings are organised by the steering committee]  In December at the latest – decision on the composition of the board committee  First WG meeting: December 2015 – WG meeting to discuss on feedback received from BFUG members and consultative members by the BFUG secretariat  Second WG meeting: February 2016 – Agreement by the WG on which topics to focus on and on which activity to be organised; Feedback to the organising BFUG members  March 2016-April 2017 – Regular meetings of the steering committee:   * To determine which steering committee member oversees which event or activity * To follow-up on events * To coordinate between events * To take stock and to analyse feedback and results * To prepare input and reports for the WG   Third WG meeting: April 2017 – Summing-up of events and finalizing reporting  Fourth WG meeting: September 2017 – Reflect on the concept and the framework  Fifth WG meeting: January 2018 (if necessary) |
| **Liaison with other WGs’ and/or board committees’ activities**   * Board committee on “Dealing with non-implementation”  *(one co-chair or members of the WG on “New EHEA goals” should also be member of the board committee on “Dealing with non-implementation” or vice-versa)* |
| **Additional remarks**  These terms of reference may be reviewed in the light of progress of the work, in agreement with the BFUG. |

1. Liaison with Board committee on “Dealing with non-implementation” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)