



Ministry of Education, Culture and  
Science of the Netherlands



Ministry of Education  
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## Paper on work progress of Working Group 2

Name of AG/WG: **Working Group on implementation (WG 2)**

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Date: 22 February 2016

### **Update of the work** (will be updated for all BFUG meetings)

The first meeting of the working group was held in Brussels, 27 January 2016.

We discussed the Terms of Reference. There was an agreement for the suggested modifications (see attachment).

We discussed also the working methods for the coming two years.

1. We could adopt a three stages working method:
  - a) **Stage I: a preparatory discussion within the WG about the commitment or topic concerned clarifying the implementation questions that could arise.** We will include experts who could guide our discussion on how to approach the implementation of the commitment(s) related to that topic (for instance: short cycle, social dimension, etc.). At the meeting in January the group initially discussed the implementation issues which need such a thorough reflection. In the framework of qualifications framework, except from general challenges regarding implementation, the issue of short cycle was identified as a key area of WG's interest. This topic is also relevant in the context of automatic recognition. In the framework of Quality assurance its international dimension (i. a. QA of cross-border education, implementation of the European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes) was mentioned as a specific topic which should be dealt with by the Group. The issue of inclusiveness should be also considered as a topic for discussion on implementation of commitments regarding social dimension.
  - b) **Stage II: Events and seminars will be organized around different topics fostering the implementation of the commitments at system/institutional/programme level.** The events are organized by individual countries or organisations. The events should be internationally or nationally-oriented, however in the latter case they should involve international experts.
  - c) **Stage III: follow-up of the events within the working group.** Based on the outcomes and findings or results of the events the WG may formulate some recommendations.

For some topics the stage II and III are sufficient. At the first meeting the issue of graduate tracking was presented as an example of a topic which does not require a preparatory discussion. The peer learning event on graduate tracking event which was held in September 2015 will have its follow-up event.

2. At the request of some WG members, we will try to cluster, on the basis of the implementation report 2012-2015, the countries that are facing similar difficulties in implementing the basic structural reforms; we aim at helping those countries by involving them closely to the activities that will be organized and we aim also at offering support if a country is asking for. This issue corresponds to the question on how to deal with the 'targeted support to member countries experiencing difficulties in implementing the agreed goals'. The Working Group agreed that the contact with countries will be maintained at the working level (BFUG) so the approach respects the intergovernmental nature of cooperation within EHEA.
3. With regard to the events that will be organized the WG suggests the involvement of academics, students, practitioners and other stakeholders.
4. The WG will draft a template for the announcement of the events as well as for the report of the event to the WG.
5. We will continue to have close consultation with the other working groups and advisory groups in particular with WG 3 and AG 3.
6. The co-chairs received the request from the NESSIE Network (which, in spite of the fact it's not included in the BFUG Work Plan, still operates) for involving in WG activities when the issue of portability of loans and grants is discussed. It was agreed that "NESSIE" would be invited as an observer of the Group when the issue of portability of loans and grants is discussed.

**Calendar** (what have you done and what is planned to + indicate which events you want to include in the general tentative schedule)

First meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in Brussels

Next meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 in Tbilisi in conjunction with an international conference organized by Georgia. Topics for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will include: the implementation of the Yerevan commitment with regard to the short cycle tertiary/higher education as well as the implementation of commitments with regard to the social dimension.

Probably a third meeting by the end of 2016.

Except from the working group meetings, co-chairs hold the preparatory meetings (before the events) and call meetings (already 2 call meetings were held: on 15<sup>th</sup> of December and 7<sup>th</sup> of January).

Calendar of events developed by the secretariat (see attachment)

