

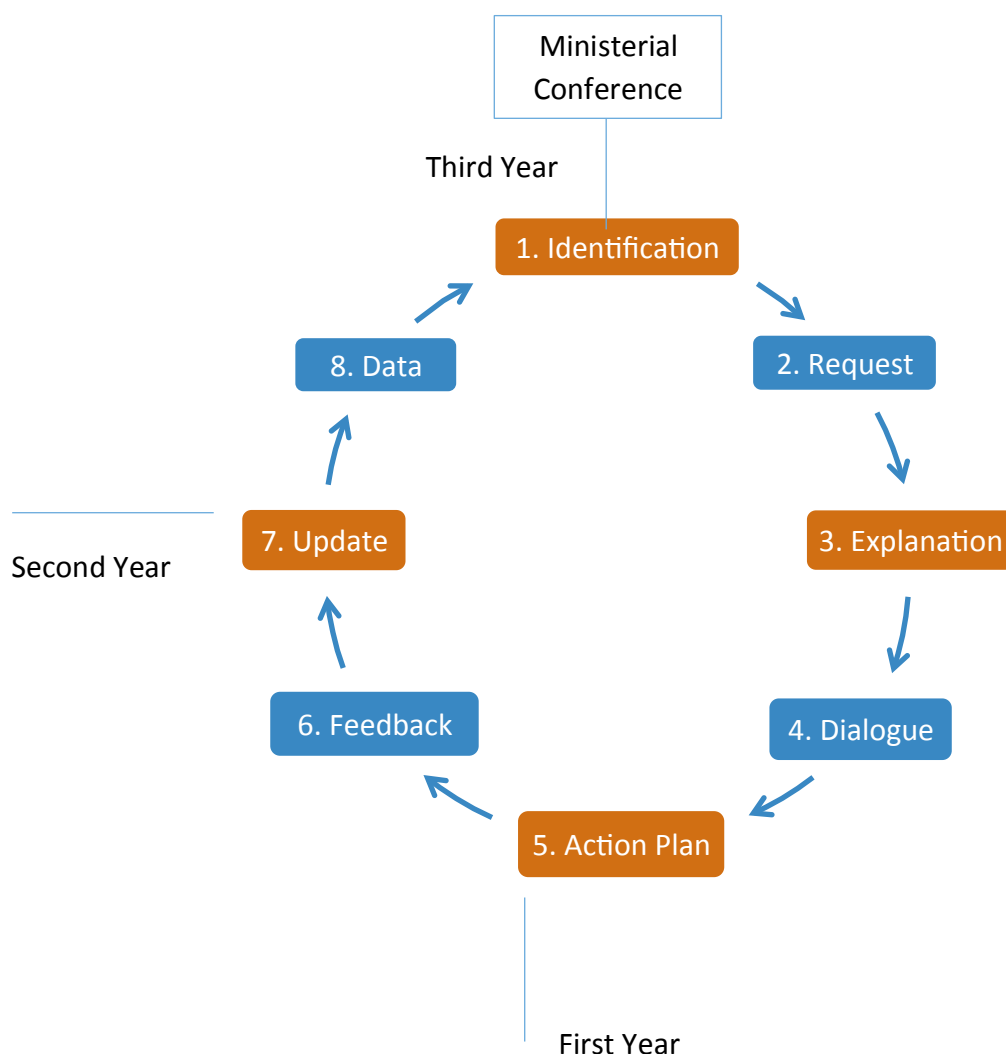
A Cyclic Procedure for dealing with Non-Implementation

Proposal to the BFUG from AG3 on Dealing with Non-Implementation

The cyclic reporting procedure is an eight-step repeating process which aims to improve the implementation of the three key commitments of the Bologna process, as agreed upon in the BFUG meeting in Amsterdam in March 2016. It works by a combination of peer-review and public reporting, with the main purpose of highlighting persistent problems of non-implementation and increasing expectations of full and correct implementation.

The procedure proposed follows the Bologna philosophy of peer- and process review which fits well with the collegiate and improvement-oriented ethos of the EHEA. No exclusion procedure is foreseen in case of repetitive failure, however countries subjected to this intensified reporting process will be highlighted in the Implementation report, along with the number of cycles the country has been subject to this procedure, and on what grounds. Thus rather than exclude a country due to its insufficient or non-existing implementation of key commitments, the procedure aims at making that implementation problem more transparent.

The timeframe foreseen for a single 8 step reporting cycle is the three-year period between Ministerial Conferences, thus following the normal monitoring timeframe of the EHEA. The process will be overseen by an "Implementation-Committee" appointed during the Ministerial Conference.



The eight steps of the cyclic procedure

1. A member country of the EHEA is identified as not or insufficiently implementing one or more key commitments from data submitted during normal monitoring procedures, and made visible in a separate chapter on implementation of key commitments in the monitoring report. The criteria for being subject to this intensified reporting procedure, is for at least one of the relevant scoreboard indicators being red, or two or more being yellow or orange.
2. The BFUG delegate of the member country receives a letter from the Implementation Committee requesting an explanation of the problems with implementation highlighted by the scoreboard indicators, and whether these are foreseen to be rectified
3. The BFUG delegate of the member country sends a written reply to the Implementation Committee.
4. A constructive dialogue is carried out between the BFUG delegate and a delegation of the Implementation Committee.
5. The BFUG delegate submits an action plan to the Implementation Committee. This happens no later than one year after the Ministerial Conference.
6. The Implementation Committee gives written feedback to the action plan.
7. The BFUG delegate of the member country gives an update on the action plan and on actions taken to the BFUG. This happens no later than two years after the Ministerial Conference.
8. Like the other EHEA countries, the member country submits its data for the next implementation report. The chapter on implementation of key commitments will show current implementation alongside level of implementation in the previous report for all countries. Countries having been subject to the cyclic procedure for dealing with non-implementation will be highlighted. Non-implementation procedures will be highlighted during the Ministerial conference, and countries that have been subject to the cyclic procedure given the opportunity to inform the conference of actions undertaken to address the lack of implementation.

The Implementation Committee

The implementation committee is proposed to be a standing committee under the Bologna Follow-Up Group and appointed during the Ministerial Conference. It is proposed that it contain a mixture of BFUG members, including at least one chair from WG1 on Monitoring, along with external experts where and when relevant. Countries to be subject to the Cyclic Procedure for Dealing with Non-implementation would not be eligible for the committee, and care would be taken to avoid obvious conflicts of interest.