

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 is based on principles of collaboration, peer-support and peer-counselling. Its purpose is to highlight exemplary implementation as well as problems of non-implementation, and to improve full and effective implementation of Bologna key commitments throughout the EHEA.

The procedure follows the Bologna philosophy of peer- and process review which fits well with the collegiate and improvement-oriented ethos of the EHEA and aims to make implementation of key commitments more transparent.

The timeframe proposed for a single eight-step reporting cycle is the period between Ministerial Conferences, thus following the normal monitoring timeframe in the EHEA, although action plans and actions taken under its different steps may refer to a longer time frame. The process will be facilitated by an Implementation Committee appointed during the Ministerial Conference.

The Implementation Committee

The Implementation Committee is responsible for facilitating the cyclic procedure. It is proposed to be a standing committee under the Bologna Follow Up Group and initially appointed during the Ministerial Conference in 2018. It is proposed to contain a mixture of BFUG members, including at least one chair from WG1 on Monitoring, as well as relevant stakeholders and national experts.

The eight steps of the cyclic procedure



1. The level of implementation of the three key commitments is surveyed based on data submitted during the BFUG's normal monitoring procedures, using the scoreboard indicators in the Bologna Implementation Report. The implementation of the key commitments is addressed in a supplementary report thereon, and briefly summarised in a table in the monitoring report. Countries will be identified as either (a) sufficiently implementing each key commitment or (b) not, or insufficiently, implementing each key commitment. Sufficient implementation means that none of the relevant scoreboard indicators is red and not more than one is orange.
2. The BFUG delegates of all EHEA countries receive a letter from the Implementation Committee detailing the level of implementation of each key commitment
 - (a) Countries **successfully implementing all key commitment** will be asked to suggest ways in which they are willing to support countries having problems with implementation of key commitment, e.g. through peer-learning or other activities designed to share their examples of successful implementation.
 - (b) Countries found as having **not or insufficiently implemented** a key commitment will be asked to provide an explanation of the problems they experienced with implementation of that key commitment, whether they are planned/expected to be rectified, and what peer support would be beneficial to aid implementation.
3. The BFUG delegate sends a written reply to the Implementation Committee. The reply contains, where relevant, a list of people or stakeholders who could offer, or be the recipients of, peer-support or peer counselling to aid implementation of one or more key commitment.
4. The Implementation Committee matches up countries offering peer-support with those having identified the need for such support, and facilitates initial contact.
5. The BFUG delegate of countries experiencing problems with implementation (b) submits an action plan to the Implementation Committee. The action plan presents concrete steps the country commits to take in order to improve the implementation of the relevant key commitment(s). The action plan should be developed in consultation with the relevant stakeholders in the country.
6. The action plans are published on the EHEA website.
7. The BFUG delegate of a country that has submitted an action plan gives an update on the plan and eventual action taken no later than at the penultimate BFUG meeting before the next Ministerial Meeting.
8. All EHEA countries submit their data for the next implementation report. The supplementary report on implementation of key commitments (see step 1) will show current implementation alongside level of implementation in the previous report for all countries. Submitted action plans on implementation of specific key commitments will be highlighted in the supplementary report.

Incentives for improved implementation of key commitments

The cyclic procedure is by its very nature an incentive for improved implementation, in the way that it highlights levels of implementation, and supports improvements. In addition it is proposed that countries that have made significant progress will be offered the opportunity to highlight their work on implementation at the Ministerial Conference.

In the event that no action plan has been produced and no improvement in implementation noted from the data submitted during two cycles, the lack of improvement will be brought to the attention of the Ministerial Conference. The Ministers will be asked for recommendations on how to proceed on a case by case basis.