

Work Progress of Working Group 3 "Policy Development for New EHEA Goals"

as of May 2017

Chairs: *Andreas Keller (EI/ETUCE)*, *Liva Vikmane (ESU)*, *Luc Hittinger (France)*, *Nadezda Kamyninan (Russia)*, *Anders Jörnsten (Sweden)*

Terms of Reference – Outcome/tasks fulfilled by May 2017 (+/- 2,000 characters)

WG3 specified six topics by taking into account the Yerevan communiqué and "The Bologna Process revisited":

- New Learners
- Relevance of Competences
- Digital Education
- Teacher Support
- ERA-EHEA
- Active Citizenship.

"Professional Recognition" has been dealt with separately.

To explore potential new priorities for the future of the EHEA beyond 2020, WG3 co-ordinated a series of actions and events organised nearly in all countries of the WG. WG members guided and assisted in organising those actions. WG3 ensured and fostered the involvement of national, European and international stakeholders, e.g. the European Commission, European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE – the European region of Education International [EI]), German Association for Educational Development, Centre for Research and Interdisciplinary at Paris Descartes University, LADOK consortium (national system for study administration within Higher Education in Sweden), National Erasmus+ Offices, etc. in the organisation of the events. The quality of teaching and universal professional standards for higher education teachers in the context of modern challenges (growth of the number of students, digitalisation, multiculturalism, psychological differences between generations, economic factors etc.) and a rapidly changing society turned out to be of great interest for all countries and require further focused analysis and experience exchange. WG members worked to ensure the dissemination of upcoming activities and their emerging results using official ministerial web portals, mailing lists, professional and public media. The WG reported back regularly to the BFUG on results of actions taken and on reflections. As a result of discussions and activities undertaken by the WG and countries, a policy recommendation paper will be drafted. The following suggestions for the Ministerial Conference and Communiqué represent a very first draft.

Terms of Reference – Tasks to be finished until autumn 2017 (+/- 1,000 characters)

To contribute to policy development, the WG3 is currently discussing the outcomes of the actions occurred to produce the final version of policy recommendations. The draft policy recommendation paper is in process and the WG will finalise these recommendations during the last meeting in September 2017. If conclusions on "Professional Recognition" will be formulated differently shall be decided during the same meeting.

The decision concerning the necessity of another WG meeting in January 2018 will be taken after the autumn 2017 BFUG.

Additional results (not aimed at in Terms of Reference) (+/- 1,000 characters)

-

Proposed input for
a) the 2018 Ministerial conference and
b) the communiqué (+/- 2,000 characters)¹

WG3 suggests integrating into the 2018 communiqué some of the following recommendations:

New Learners

The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers encourage higher education institutions to provide flexible study paths in terms of study pace, study aim and learning methods and agree to review and adapt higher education support systems, qualifications frameworks, credit systems and quality assurance, to provide the conditions for such increased flexibility.

The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers promote the development of a virtual mobility to provide an alternative in addition to physical international mobility.

Active Citizenship

The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers enhance the capacity of students and staff to be active and responsible citizens. This will require the universities to play a continued active role in society.

The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers ensure that students have the opportunity to work across disciplines and societal sectors, and are encouraged to develop original, creative and critical thinking. Universities should also foster the potential of students as active citizens by involving them in the decision-making processes at the university.

Teacher Support

The BFUG should recommend EHEA Ministers to agree on a common understanding of main principles of quality teaching and learning. Tools like the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance should be checked if they already cover the requirement of teacher support in a sufficient way. Teaching competences must cope with particular requirements of a diverse student population and new teaching methods like student-centred learning.

The BFUG should recommend EHEA Ministers to propose a new EHEA Teaching and Learning Institute (TALI) providing a platform and an environment for sharing teaching knowledge and experiences and developing innovative methods among teachers and higher education institutions.

The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers encourage higher education institutions to provide a supportive working environment for higher education teachers in order to ensure quality teaching needs, decent working conditions like permanent employment for permanent tasks and an individual right to continuous professional development.

Digital Education

The BFUG should recommend EHEA Ministers to agree that digitalisation should always facilitate the needs of students, different needs of learning and support accessibility. Digital technology should be used to create more flexible learning paths, implement student-centred learning, increase lifelong learning opportunities and facilitate internationalisation at home.

The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers propose higher education institutions to develop digitalisation strategies, including learning (staff training and students), research, administration, and links to society.

The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers encourage European universities to share materials in an open way and working towards open science.

¹ It is possible to propose input for either the conference or the communiqué or for both.

EHEA : ERA

The BFUG should recommend EHEA Ministers to agree that the interaction between both ERA and EHEA needs to be increased in order to develop critical thinking of students through the latest advances in research, to form through research the new generation of researchers, to help companies and public institutions in their research developments and to facilitate lifelong learning of new technologies.

The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers ensure that learning and teaching are considered in a more systematic way when addressing research policies.

At study programme level, further integration between research and education within curricula in the upcoming programmes should be encouraged (transversal tools), especially for mobility, rewarding of teachers and links between open science and open education; crossed views of the programmes for users should be allowed.

Annex1

Purpose and/or outcome (from Terms of Reference)

In a perspective of renewing the vision of the EHEA, the Working Group on New goals will be dedicated to defining new priorities for the future of the EHEA (taking into account the goals mentioned in the Yerevan communiqué and in "The Bologna Process revisited" paper). It coordinates a programme of actions (conference, seminar, pathfinder group, workshop, etc) on topics focussed on new ideas with a European perspective that are organised by countries, institutions and/or organisations. The activities shall contribute to policy development and provide policy recommendations.

Specific tasks (from Terms of Reference)

- To specify a range of topics in agreement with the BFUG, by taking into account the Yerevan communiqué and "The Bologna Process revisited" paper;
- To gather and coordinate actions (and events) organized by countries, institutions and organisations (conferences, workshops, seminars, etc...);
- To guide and assist countries, institutions and organisations in organizing actions;
- To ensure and foster the involvement of national, European and international stakeholders in the organization of the events, the attendance of the events and /or active participation in drafting common policies;
- To ensure the dissemination of upcoming activities and their emerging results;
- To produce policy recommendation papers;
- To report back regularly to the BFUG on policy recommendations, feedback, results of actions taken and on reflections on the WG concept.

Annex2

Calendar

a) Overview of meetings of WG 3 "Policy Development for New EHEA Goals"

Nr.	Date	Place
1	9 February 2016	Moscow (Russia)
2	13/14 June 016	Paris (France)
3	2/3 November 2016	Stockholm (Sweden)
4	6/7 April 2017	Brussels (Belgium)
5	5 September 2017	Brussels (Belgium)

In addition to WG3 meetings, its chairs met four times in Brussels for co-ordination and planning of the work.

b) Proposals made to the BFUG (in written or at meetings) and results of the discussion in the BFUG (max. 1,000 characters)

none