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## **Explanatory note by AG3 and WG2 to the proposal to aid implementation of Bologna key commitments**

Following extensive discussions during the meeting of the Bologna Follow Up Group (BFUG) in Tartu in November 2017, Advisory Group 3 (AG3) focused on adapting the proposal for dealing with non-implementation tabled at that meeting to better reflect the ethos and collegiality of the Bologna process, while still having the potential to be effective in improving the implementation of Bologna commitments across the entire European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

During that process, AG3 has taken its lead from the comments made during the meeting in Tartu. It also called for written comments and proposals from BFUG delegations and/or working groups following that discussion. Comments were received in writing from Belgium Flanders/WG2, Germany and Belarus. The most extensive of those was from Belgium Flanders/WG2 detailing their concept of a system of thematically focused reversed peer-reviews, which has greatly informed the peer-support part of the new proposal.

The discussions and written contributions were used to feed into a meeting of AG3 in Brussels on December 7<sup>th</sup> which was also attended by chairs from WG1 and WG2 as well as a representative from Belgium Flanders. Subsequent to the meeting the AG3 writing group drafted an initial proposal which was sent to the entire AG3 and the chairs of WG2 for comment and input. During that consultative process further written comments and suggestions were received from Switzerland, the Netherlands, EURASHE, The European Commission, and co-chairs of WG2, all of which contributed to development of the proposal. Following further discussions at the BFUG Board in Belgrade in January 2018 the chairs from AG3 and WG2 collaborated on the producing the final proposal to be tabled for discussion and approval at the BFUG in Sofia in February 2018, with the recommendation that the BFUG put it forward for discussion and possible approval by Ministers at the EHEA Ministerial Conference in Paris in May 2018, thus fulfilling the mandate given to the BFUG by Ministers at their meeting in Yerevan in 2015.

The main changes made to the proposal from the one put forward by AG3 in Tartu in November 2017 include but are not limited to:

- A change in name of both the process and its facilitating group to emphasise the supportive nature of the proposal and a change in overall language to better reflect the positive and incentive-based aspects of the process
- A reduction in steps to reduce administrative burden (real or perceived)
- A clarification of the fact that monitoring of individual countries will be through normal monitoring procedures.
- The introduction of peer support in thematic groups with collective responsibility being given to all parties, as informed by the positive experience reported for such a model of support by WG2.
- A reduction in administrative documentation with a change from national action plans to shared action plans for each thematic peer support group further reflecting the shared responsibility for a functioning and fully implemented Bologna Process, as well as improving the speed by which the process can be initiated.
- A clarification of the role of facilitating group and the peer groups, including how their work is defined and interlinked.
- A clarification of the time line for setting up the procedure in the coming working period
- A focus on self-identification of successful achievements, problems faced, support needed, and or expertise sought and offered