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FINAL REPORT STRUCTURE

BFUG Advisory Group 3 – Dealing with Non-Implementation

Introduction

Put in context of incomplete implementation etc.

Assignment

The task of AG3 is derived from the Communiqué of the EHEA Ministerial Conference in Yerevan, 14/15 May 2015 and defined by the Terms of Reference which have been approved by the BFUG 8/9 September 2015 in Luxembourg.

Yerevan Communiqué:

“Implementing agreed structural reforms is a prerequisite for the consolidation of the EHEA and, in the long run, for its success. A common degree structure and credit system, common quality assurance standards and guidelines, cooperation for mobility and joint programmes and degrees are the foundations of the EHEA. We will develop more effective policies for the recognition of credits gained abroad, of qualifications for academic and professional purposes, and of prior learning. Full and coherent implementation of agreed reforms at the national level requires shared ownership and commitment by policy makers and academic communities and stronger involvement of stakeholders. Non-implementation in some countries undermines the functioning and credibility of the whole EHEA. We need more precise measurement of performance as a basis for reporting from member countries. Through policy dialogue and exchange of good practice we will provide targeted support to member countries experiencing difficulties in implementing the agreed goals and enable those who wish to go further to do so.

“... We ask the BFUG ... to submit proposals for addressing the issue of non-implementation.”

Specific Tasks by Terms of Reference

- To develop an approach of dealing with non-implementation or incorrect implementation of the main principles and tools of the EHEA by respecting and reflecting the EHEA instruments and the EHEA culture;
- To identify key commitments concerning the non-implementation;
- To submit proposals to the BFUG for addressing the issue of non-implementation of key commitments (e.g. through peer learning, policy advice, assistance, action plans, minimum standards);
- To keep the Working Group on “Implementation - fostering implementation of agreed key commitments” informed and together put the above mentioned proposals into practice (in order to provide targeted support to member countries experiencing difficulties in implementing the agreed goals).

Group composition

Chairs: Iceland, Liechtenstein

Members: Albania, Council of Europe, EI/ETUCE, EQAR, ESU, EU Commission, EURASHE, France, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Netherland, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine

Annex of meetings and attendance of different countries.

Group Meetings

Bruxelles, 14th January 2016

Definition of Key Commitments for the EHEA and search for indicators to display the degree of implementation

Reykjavik, 12th September 2016

Designing a procedure and a body for dealing with non-implementation

Zurich, 19th January 2017

Refining of the procedure model and body after feedback of the BFUG

Strasbourg, 7th June 2017

Further adaptations after feedback of the BFUG

Brussels, 7th December 2017

Further adaptations after feedback of the BFUG

Acknowledgement by the BFUG

The Developing of the model (see appendix) happened in close cooperation with the BFUG, and eventually in collaboration with WG2. All important steps were brought to the acknowledgement of the BFUG and thereafter have been refined by taking in account the BFUG's feedbacks:

Expand on papers presented at the BFUG meetings and discussions thereof.

BFUG Amsterdam 7th/8th March 2016

Key Commitments (adopted)

BFUG Bratislava 8th/9th December 2016

Cyclic procedure and body (feedbacks)

BFUG Malta 24th/25th May 2017

Refined cyclic procedure and body (...)

BFUG Tartu 9/10 November 2017

Amended and refined procedure and body (...)

BFUG Sofia 5th/6th February 2018

New proposal for the support for the implementation of key bologna commitments

Results

The outcome is a procedure model including a body which is alleged to the BFUG and in close cooperation with the monitoring group. It is responsible for conducting a collegial and cooperative procedure which is compatible with the academic culture of the EHEA. The aim of this new instrument is to foster implementation of key commitments by positive incentive, but also to show undisguised where non-implementation remains an untackled problem and further steps might have to be taken by the Ministerial Conference. The full description of the instrument is to be found in the appendix.

Proposals to the Ministerial Conference (with WG2)

To adopt the procedure model including key commitments and indicators and to implement the responsible coordination group.

- Support for implementation of Key Bologna Commitments
- ToR BICG
- Key Commitments for 2018-2020
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Current implementation of Key Commitments (from WG1)

Current implementation of Key Commitments (dev. by WG1) as described by relevant key indicators
Conclusions thereon.