

Advisory Group 1: EHEA International cooperation

London (United Kingdom), 18 May 2016

Draft minutes

List of participants

ACA / Academic Cooperation Association	Bernd WAECHTER
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BELGIUM VL	Noel VERCRUYSSSE
BFUG SECRETARIAT	Fabien NEYRAT
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ENQA	Maria KELO
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ESU	Fernando GALAN
EU COMMISSION	Marlène BARTES
EUA	Michael GAEBEL
FRANCE / Ministry of education, higher education and research / BFUG Vice Chair / co-chair	Patricia POL
FRANCE / Ministry of education, higher education and research	Olivier STEFFEN
FRANCE / France Université Numérique	Céline LECOQ
FRANCE / France Université Numérique	Sandrine DELACROIX - MORVAN
GERMANY	Katrin FOHMANN
IRELAND	Gerry O'SULLIVAN

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SPAIN co-chair	Luis DELGADO
UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN	Emmanuelle GARDAN
UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN	Ilan CHET
UNITED KINGDOM co-chair	Ella RITCHIE
UNITED KINGDOM / Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	Ian CROMBIE
UNITED KINGDOM	David LOCK
UNITED KINGDOM / FutureLearn	Mark LESTER
UNITED KINGDOM / British Council	John LAW
UNITED KINGDOM / Universities UK	Stephanie KIEYNHANS
UNITED KINGDOM / Universities UK	Lucy SHACKLETON

The representatives from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Serbia and UNESCO were excused.

Internal member's meeting

Welcome and presentation of the participants

The representative of the English Ministry of Education welcomed the participants.

The co-chairs of Advisory Group 1 then welcomed both representatives from the *Union For the Mediterranean* and emphasized the importance of the Mediterranean area. This area was stated as a priority in the Yerevan Communiqué and was the focus of the previous Bologna Policy Forum. Unfortunately the invited representatives from the Association of African Universities and African Union Commission could not attend this meeting due to prior commitment. However, the co-chairs stressed that Africa remains a priority area for this Group and reminded colleagues that the French co-chair has already met the "Inter – University Council For East Africa" representative. The thematic session on Africa will be postponed to another AG 1 meeting.

Objectives of the day, adoption of the Agenda and adoption of final report of the first meeting

The Co-chairs reminded colleagues that the objectives of this day's session were:

- To structure a roadmap of cooperation for engaging a fruitful policy dialogue with non EHEA partners around thematic proposals.
- Define the focus of the next AG 1 meeting in Russia.

The issue on what the topics of this cooperation with non EHEA partners should be, led to an extensive discussion amongst the participants. There was some debate about whether the topics should be chosen by the Group or should be identified through the initial dialogue with those partners. The co-chairs reminded colleagues that the other Working Groups were focussing on developing themes and topics and that this Advisory Group should be aware of these priorities. The co-chairs recalled that, for example, during the meeting in Paris with the Inter – University Council For East Africa, its representative had suggested that the day before the next East Africa Community (EAC) Summit which brings together the head of States in

November 2016, a meeting dedicated to the influence of the “policy challenges” on a regional higher education area should be held.

Thus, the agenda of this meeting combines both “policy topics” and regional dialogue. For example, digitalization is obviously a great facilitator of cooperation in Higher Education since it helps to connect people, different regions and diverse higher educational and research cultures.

All the participants adopted the agenda.

All the participants adopted the minutes of the last meeting in Paris with two minor changes:

- Precise “Advisory Group” instead of “Working Group” in the main title (page 1)
- Delete ACA from the list of participants since no representative attended the meeting (page 1).

Feedback from the Amsterdam BFUG meeting

Three points were endorsed by the BFUG in Amsterdam

- Acceptance of The TORs specifying that the BFUG members should include UNESCO and “Experts from European and international organizations such as ACA, EAIE, IAU, OECD, and regional associations of stakeholders.”
- Validation of the aims of this group: to develop an inter-regional dialogue through cooperation policy to be implemented between 2016 and 2018 without excluding any region with non EHEA partners who show interest to cooperate on topics of mutual benefit.
- Mandate to overhaul the Bologna Policy Forum and to make proposals to improve it with regard to the previous ones and particularly the one held in Yerevan in 2015 with a very low participation of non EHEA representatives.

British Council (see annex)

The British Council was founded to create an accessible source of knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and the wider world. It operates in more than 100 countries for mutual benefits in order to promote the image of the United Kingdom. The British Council is independent from the government but it ensures strategic alignment to UK policy priorities. The funding of the organization is provided by public money and the private sector and donors.

As far as Higher Education is concerned, the British Council aims to increase global partnership and networks between universities, students and higher education leaders. It organizes “Going Global” which is one of the most important world-class conferences on education issues. The main achievement of this Conference is creating new relations. The last conference took place in Cape Town in May 2016 and focused on “Building nations and connecting cultures: education policy, economic development and engagement”. The theme of “Going global” in 2017 is on “Universities and cities” and will be held in London.

Short presentation on United Kingdom priorities (UUK/BIS)

“Universities UK” presentation (see annex)

Vivienne Stern, Director of UK Higher Education International Unit presented her Unit, which aims at:

- Helping universities building capacity to participate in international opportunities
- Providing information, intelligence and guidance
- Shaping UK and other governments’ policy
- Representing the UK higher education internationally

An overview about internationalisation of the Higher Education in the United Kingdom was presented (17% students in the UK are international). It was stressed that internationalization (staff, students and researches) is central to excellence and quality in the field of teaching and researches.

“Business, Innovation and Skills” presentation (see annex)

Ian Crombie (Department for Business and Innovation and Skills) presented the priority topics for the United Kingdom regarding Higher Education:

- Quality of teaching
- Widening access
- Social mobility

The United Kingdom Universities and Science Minister has strongly supported international mobility (including the ERASMUS programme) in order to prepare students for a global world. Excellence in education is connected with internationalization by improving employability while academic mobility enhances research. The latest Higher Education White Paper ‘Students at the Heart of the System’ highlights the Government’s vision for a world-class higher education sector.

Discussion on developing a matrix for cooperation Regions / Topics

According to the last report of the AG 1 meeting in Paris, each member of the group had to send a list of all relevant international and regional events to the Secretariat by the end of February 2016. The Secretariat received answers from AUF, EAIE, European Commission, France, Germany (DAAD) and Spain. The co-chairs thanked the members of this Group for their valuable knowledge of international contacts and events that would be integrated in the agenda of this Group.

The members were asked to advocate the work of this Group and to promote it in front of non EHEA partners when there is an opportunity to do so (e.g. during international or regional events). The introduction of a workshop on “EHEA-ASEAN dialogue” during the general IAU conference in Bangkok (13-16 November 2016) was given as an interesting example.

It was underlined that EHEA ministerial conference includes all the stakeholders in the discussion and that the challenge will be to attract ministers or regional political executives. The power of such political forum mustn't be underestimated.

“Digitalization and international cooperation”

“FutureLearn and internationalization” by Mark Lester (see annex)

FutureLearn is a private online and distance learning platform founded in December 2012. It has 87 partners from around the world: UK and international universities, as well as prestigious institutions (the British Library, the British Museum and the National Film and Television School) and firms (such as the BBC and Marks & Spencer). At this moment 3.7 millions of learners are registered. FutureLearn policy is to propose short courses directly linked to the market needs. Usually universities create MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) to improve their international visibility and disseminate research.

A suggestion from the participants was that MOOCs could be a response to the challenge of Higher education for migrants and refugees. Usually people who use MOOCs have a solid educational background and register in the frame of “Continued and Developed Education” projects.

FUN-MOOC “France Université Numérique” by Sandrine Delacroix-Morvan and Céline Lecoq (see annex)

FUN-MOOC “France Université Numérique” is a public organization founded in 2015. It currently represents a network of over 750 MOOCs represented in 194 French Higher Education Institutions and proposes 201 courses for 1.8 million enrollments. FUN is working at international level in order to develop MOOC inside foreign Higher Education institutions (in Tunisia, Vietnam and Colombia). Some challenges were addressed for our discussion:

- Building a European program of collaboration for translation
- Adapting MOOC platform for a better multilingualism use: user should be able to select his preferred language to follow course (only English available now for several courses).
- Fostering the mobility of learners by improving the recognition between European MOOCs
- Furthering development of partnerships between HE institutions for international MOOC co-productions.

- Use of European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) for recognition of MOOC's certificates

Building regional dialogues: Asia, Mediterranean region and Africa

ASEM education dialogue with EHEA: Presentation of the ongoing dialogue (Noel Verduyck)

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation bringing together the 28 European Union member states, 2 other European countries, and the European Union with 21 Asian countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. Inspired at its origins by EHEA achievement, ASEM education process was very similar with EHEA in terms of topics and tools. The last ASEM Education Intermediate Senior Officials' Meeting (Moscow on 13th – 14th April 2016) took stock of the implementation of the agreed commitments from the previous ASEM Ministerial meeting. The draft report will be communicated to the Group. Belgium was engaged with Germany in the ASEM “Education Initiatives” (see the background documents). The program 2015 – 2017 of these “Initiatives” that includes Peer Learning Activity and Conferences covers the following topics:

- Quality Assurance and Recognition. Under this topic, a joint ASEM-EHEA conference should be scheduled for the end of 2016 or the beginning of 2017 on “the impact of reforms on academic professions” (date to be confirmed, but it must happen before the 6th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting in Korea in 2017).
- Engaging business and industry in education
- Balanced mobility
- Lifelong learning including technical and vocational education and training (VET).

ASEM education is developing its own dialogue and initiative regarding the EHEA. The co-chairs agreed to reinforce the voice of EHEA through the members of this Group who were already involved in the ASEM education process.

“Union for the Mediterranean” by Pr. Ilan Chet – Deputy general secretary for Higher Education and Research (see annex)

The Union for the Mediterranean is the only intergovernmental organization that gathers together the 28 European Union Member States and 15 countries from the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean. It is currently placed under the North-South co-presidency of the EU and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It provides a unique forum to enhance regional cooperation, dialogue and the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives in the Euro-Mediterranean region... It only works on regional projects. “Higher Education and Research” represents one of its priority areas; it aims at:

- Facilitating coordination and providing a platform for Mediterranean higher education and youth mobility
- Improving the quality of vocational training and higher education in the region in view of increasing the student employability
- Facilitating North-South dialogue within Mediterranean scientific research frameworks.

The following projects were briefly presented:

- Two regional centres for Euro-Mediterranean Higher Education: the “Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes” (6 600 students expected by 2024, 20 % of whom with scholarship, 80% performing academic mobility) and the “EMUNI University” (a network that represents 125 universities).
- “New Chance Mediterranean Network” (MedNC) programme that aims at boosting the employability of young people who dropped out of school before obtaining a degree and unemployed graduates from Southern Mediterranean countries through the provision of an innovative training programme.
- “Higher Education on Food Security and Rural Development” that is promoted by the “International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies” (CIHEAM) to provide post-graduate education, conduct research and develop cooperation in the fields of agriculture, food security and rural development within the Mediterranean.
- “High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment” (HOMERe) aims at improving the cross-cutting skills and at increasing the employability of Mediterranean high-profile students, using internship mobility.

The next "Dialogue 5+5" Ministerial Conference on Higher Education, Research and Innovation" will take place in Tunis in March 2017.

Pr. Ilan Chet was keen to open the dialogue with this AG1 and define topics of common interest.

"Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie" (AUF): Presentation of the project IDNEUF: Portal of open education resources for francophone countries by Annick Suzor-Weiner (see annex)

The Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) is a network of 817 members in 106 countries (universities, Grandes Écoles, university networks and centers of scientific research). AUF network of universities covers more countries than the "Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie" (OIF) and includes non-French speaking universities as well.

IDNEUF is a ministerial level project of a Meta-portal of francophone digital resources. It should be in function after June 2016 and should contain around 140 000 resources. AUF is in charge of:

- Production of the Portal
- Training of the trainers
- Development of certification

The next Ministerial meeting is planned on 18 June 2016 in Bamako.

Discussion and decisions on the matrix and events agenda and roadmap 2016 – 2018

The discussion dealt with the purpose that this Group would like to achieve and the conception of the next Bologna Policy Forum. The key suggestions were:

- The Group has to keep in mind not to become a group of intellectual debate without effective action of concrete cooperation.
- One of the lessons learnt from the preparation of the BPF in Bucharest and Erevan was the relative non interaction and involvement of the guests.
- Organizing intermediate meetings of "Senior EHEA officials" - as ASEM Education does - would be an option to prepare the Ministerial Conference.
- Dialogue with non EHEA countries should be based to address common global challenges. These global topics have to be linked with the Bologna core topics.

Among the general topics debated during the discussion, these are mentioned:

- Accreditation and mobility
- Education for development
- Crises
- Recognition – value of qualification
- Cross border education and mobility
- Collaboration with industry and employability
- Social innovation
- Community engagement – contribution to society
- Education and migration
- Education for societal challenges

Decisions taken

- Mandate given to the co-chairs to define the relevant policy topics to be presented to the regional partners in collaboration with WG2 and WG3
- Mandate given to the co-chairs to prepare the dialogues with voluntary regions and update the roadmap 2016-2018. Dialogue with Mediterranean and Arabic countries, Africa, Asia is ongoing. To be developed with Northern and Latin America.
- Creation of a "task force" to "rethink" the Bologna Policy Forum by presenting different options in a concept note by Mid-September to be discussed during the next meeting in Nizhny-Novgorod.

- Discussion with the BFUG Chairmanship to include in the agenda of the next board (24 October) and BFUG (December 2016) a discussion on different options concerning the next BPF.

Next meeting in October 2016

The next meeting will take place in Nizhny Novgorod (Russia) on 14th of October 2016. It was agreed that the BPF concept note will lead the main discussions. The Russian host reminded participants to pay attention to the visa procedure as described in the practical information sheet and to send all required data by middle of June.

Next meetings

- Nizhny Novgorod (Russia), 14 October 2016
- Madrid (Spain), January 2017: the date will soon be communicated.
- Before summer 2017: call for a voluntary country to host the fifth meeting.

AOB

28th Annual EAIE Conference and Exhibition (13 – 16 of September 2016 in Liverpool): possibility to organize an informal meeting of AG 1 members who will attend the Conference.

The ESU representative informed participants that:

- The 70th Board Meeting of ESU took place in Bergen (Norway) from 9 to 14 May 2016
- ESU welcomed the new EU Visa Directive that will make EU education systems more accessible to non-EU students.

Annex: Presentations

(British Council, FutureLearn, FUN, UUK, UFM and AUF)



British Council.pptx



Future Learn.pdf



France Université
Numérique.pptx



UUK International
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Union For the
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