

BFUG WORK PROGRAMME - 2005-2007

The Work Programme for 2005-2007 was agreed by BFUG in October 2005. It was agreed that it would comprise 5 working groups; (a further Working Group, 'Portability of Grants and Loans' was approved by BFUG in April 2006); 8 seminars; 2 projects; discussions at BFUG; and a number of priorities to be taken forward at national level. Details of each strand of the Work Programme are given below.

Key dates in the BFUG work schedule are:

- BFUG7: 12-13 October 2005, Manchester, United Kingdom
- BFUGB11: 25 January 2006, Vienna, Austria
- BFUG8: 6-7 April 2006, Vienna, Austria
- BFUGB12 Board: 13 June 2006, Vienna, Austria
- BFUGB13 Board: 1 September 2006, Helsinki, Finland
- BFUG9:12-13 October 2006, Helsinki, Finland
- BFUGB14 Board: 23 January 2007, Berlin, Germany
- BFUG10: 5-6 March 2007, Berlin, Germany
- BFUG11:17-18 April 2007, Berlin, Germany
- MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE 16-18 May 2007, London, UK

Over and above the Work Programme, there will be a number of other events and activities that will contribute to the development of the European Higher Education Area. This includes EUA's Trends V and the surveys being planned by ESIB, EURASHE and EI Pan European Structure. Details of all events and activities will be promoted on the Bologna website at: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bologna/>

Working Group				
Subject	Lead	Other Members	Notes	Start
Stocktaking	Andrejs Rauhvargers Latvia	Belgium (Flemish Community) Estonia Germany Greece Norway Romania Slovenia Turkey Bologna Secretariat rep.	<p>Terms of Ref (BFUG7 9)</p> <p>In order to realise the objectives set by the Ministers, the Working Group shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the key issues to be addressed through the stocktaking exercise as well as the methodology to be used in this exercise; 2. Collaborate with partner and other organisations in order to maximise the use of data sources; 3. Define, where appropriate, the structure of a separate questionnaire to be used in the stocktaking should this be required; 4. Prepare a structure for the national contributions to the stocktaking to be submitted by member States; and 5. Prepare a report for approval by the BFUG in advance of the London Conference in 2007. <p>The Working Group will be supported in its task by the Secretariat, and shall draw on expertise as it considers appropriate.</p> <p>The Group shall submit reports to the BFUG, and shall make its draft reports and other relevant documents accessible for all BFUG members on the web.</p> <p>EUA shall participate in the work for stocktaking through delegating an expert.</p> <p>The working group can decide to select more organizations to participate as experts in its meetings</p>	<p>-Terms of Reference agreed by BFUG in October 2005.</p> <p>-First meeting of the Working Group - Riga 9 December 2005.</p> <p>-Second meeting of the Working Group - Brussels 27 February 2006.</p> <p>-Third meeting of the Working Group - Helsinki 11 October 2006.</p> <p>-Fourth meeting of the Working Group – Norway 12-13 February 2007,</p> <p>-Fifth meeting of the Working Group – Lisbon 26-27 March 2007,</p>

Working Groups Continued				
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Elaborate and agree on a strategy for the external dimension.	Toril Johansson, Norway	Denmark France Germany Greece Holy See Malta Portugal Presidency Spain Sweden Bologna Secretariat rep. Consultative members: EUA EU ESIB UNESCO Council of Europe EI - Pan European Structure ACA	<p>Terms of Reference (BFUG7 5d – revised)</p> <p>The Working Group is responsible for developing a strategy document on the external dimension of the Bologna Process. Three seminars will be arranged during 2006 in order to give significant input to their work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A seminar took place on 30 March – 1 April 2006 which focussed upon the attractiveness of the EHEA, based on European cultural and historical identity and academic values, hosted by the Holy See. 2. A seminar took place on 24-26 June 2006 which focussed upon information on how the Bologna process operates and what has been achieved so far, the links and interaction with other areas of the world, hosted by Greece 3. A seminar took place on 28-29 September 2006 which focussed on discussion of the draft report, with an emphasis on areas that had not been focused upon in the previous seminars, e.g. competitiveness and capacity building, hosted by the Nordic countries. <p>An expert will, in collaboration with the Working Group, prepare a report to the Nordic seminar in September. This report will be available to seminar participants and BFUG in August 2006 at the latest.</p> <p>Together with the outcomes from the three seminars, the report will found the basis for the strategy work of the Working Group.</p> <p>The Working Group will report regularly to BFUG. Before it finalises its work, a draft strategy document shall be discussed in a full BFUG-meeting.</p>	<p>-Terms of Reference agreed by BFUG in November 2005.</p> <p>-First meeting of the Working Group - Brussels 9 February 2006.</p> <p>-Second meeting of the Working Group- Vienna 7 April 2006.</p> <p>-Third meeting of the Working Group - Vienna 12 June 2006.</p> <p>-Fourth meeting of the Working Group - Brussels 4 September 2006.</p> <p>-Fifth meeting of the Working Group - Brussels 7 November 2006.</p>

Working Groups Continued				
Subject	Lead	Other Members	Notes	Start
Social dimension and data on the mobility of staff and students in participating countries; report on comparable data on mobility of staff and students as well as on the social and economic situation of students, as the basis for future stocktaking.	Annika Persson, Sweden	Austria Bosnia Herzegovina Croatia France Ireland Luxembourg Ukraine UK Bologna Secretariat rep. Consultative members: EUA EI – Pan European Structure ESIB Eurostudent OECD Eurostat	Terms of Reference Mission statement: 1. To define the concept of social dimension based on the ministerial communiqués of the Bologna Process; 2. To present comparable data on the social and economic situation of students in participating countries; 3. To present comparable data on the mobility of staff and students; and 4. To prepare proposals as a basis for future stocktaking. The Working Group will be led by a Steering Committee. The work will be organised along three broad projects and with subsequent subgroups working with a) and b) and c) will be the responsibility of the Steering Committee: a. Definition of the social dimension using the previous communiqués as a starting point for discussion; b. The collection and exploration of data with three strands: socio- and economic situation of the students based upon the definition, mobility of students and mobility of staff; and c. Recommendations on the scope of a future stocktaking exercise on the social dimension and on mobility, according to the definition emerging from subgroup (a) and the availability of comparable data as identified by subgroup (b).	-Terms of Reference agreed by BFUG in November 2005. -First meeting of the working group - Brussels 14-15 December 2005. -Second meeting of the Working Group - Stockholm 19 January 2006. -Third meeting of the Working Group - Brussels 9 March 2006. -Fourth meeting of the Working Group - Vienna 14 June 2006. -Fifth meeting of the Working Group - Stockholm 11-12 September 2006. -Sixth meeting of the Working Group - Helsinki 13 October 2006. -Seventh meeting of the Working Group -19 December 2006.
London Communiqué drafting group	Presidency Germany	Finland Georgia Latvia Portugal UK	The working group will report back on its progress at BFUG and Board meetings leading up to the Ministerial Conference	-First meeting Berlin - 10 November 2006. -Second meeting -London 8 December 2006. - Third meeting –Berlin 7 March 2007. -Fourth meeting - Berlin 2-3 April 2007.

Working Groups Continued				
Subject	Lead	Other Members	Notes	Start
Report on implementation and further development of overarching qualifications framework	Mogens Berg, Denmark	Hungary Netherlands Russia Spain "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" Chair of the WG on Stocktaking Bologna Presidency (UK-AT-FI-GER) Bologna Secretariat rep.	<p>Terms of Reference (BFUG7 5c - revised)</p> <p>In order to realise the objectives set by the Ministers, the Working Group shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider what further development of the framework may be required, particularly the linkage between national frameworks and the EHEA-framework; the Working Group may invite member countries to participate in pilot projects of self-certification of national frameworks; it may conduct a survey on how credit ranges and credits are defined in national legislation; 2. Support the Working Group on Stocktaking in the stocktaking exercise of implementation of national frameworks; 3. Monitor the development of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning with the aim of ensuring complementarity between that framework and the EHEA framework and advise BFUG on the matter; and 4. Provide assistance to member countries working to introduce national frameworks. <p>The Group will submit progress reports to BFUG and a final report of its findings to the London Conference through BFUG.</p>	<p>-Terms of Reference agreed by BFUG in October 2005</p> <p>-First meeting of the Working Group - Copenhagen 21 November 2005.</p> <p>-Second meeting of the Working Group - Budapest 26 February 2006</p> <p><u>Programme of 4 Regional Workshops in 2006:</u></p> <p>-NW: The Hague, 30 June</p> <p>-NE: Budapest, 4 Sept.</p> <p>-SE: Greece, 11-12 Sept.</p> <p>-SW: Madrid 18-19 Sept.</p> <p>-Third meeting of the Working Group - Madrid 19 Sept.ember 2006.</p> <p>-Fourth meeting of the Working Group -Copenhagen 15 December 2006.</p>

Working Groups Continued				
Subject	Lead	Other Members	Notes	Start
Portability of Grants and Loans	Aldrik In't Hout. The Netherlands	The working group consists of student support experts who are closely linked to their BFUG-colleagues. Albania Austria Belgium Croatia Denmark England ESIB European Commission Finland Germany Ireland Lithuania Norway Romania Scotland Sweden Switzerland The Netherlands Bologna Secretariat	<p>Proposed terms of reference (as itemised in the paper: BFUG8 5)</p> <p>To obtain a workable set of proposals including joint actions, it is important that realistic and achievable targets for practical outcomes are set for the working group. In this context the working group will seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the elements of this issue in more detail (e.g. what is understood by 'grants and loans'); • Describe the obstacles that countries encounter in making grants and loans portable; • Examine and provide information on relevant & applicable EU-law; • Collect good practices; • Provide a way to link the grant and/or loan authorities of different countries in order to exchange the necessary information; • Develop a set of tools to guide countries in making their grant and/or loan system portable; • Identify ways to facilitate each others portability systems (ranging from appropriate information about study programmes to the assistance in refunding the loans); • Define levels/ways for exchanging relevant information. <p>In the elaboration, the working group is to be aware of the different positions of the Bologna countries (for example EU and non-EU) and will take these into account. It could include Bologna countries that do not have a student support system or that do not wish (at this point) to make their system portable. For countries that do wish to make their grant and/or loan system portable, it will be of help to have a forum where they can exchange necessary information with countries that do not themselves have portability or that have another (or no) student support system.</p> <p>It will be advantageous for this group to maintain close contact with the 'Social dimension and data on mobility' working group in order to build on complementary activities and to benefit from each others findings</p>	<p>-Further elaboration of the final Terms of Reference, organisation of work, time schedule, resources and the list of membership were discussed at the first meeting of the group in The Hague on 16 June 2006.</p> <p>- Second meeting of the Working Group – Glasgow 7-8 September 2006.</p> <p>-Third meeting of the Working Group – Berlin 15th January 2007.</p>

Seminars			
Subject	Lead	Notes	Start
External dimension: Attractiveness of the EHEA	Holy See	Theme – the cultural heritage and academic values of European universities and the attractiveness of the EHEA. Aim - was to elaborate and agree on a strategy for the external dimension to strengthen the attractiveness of the EHEA. Outcomes – the clarification of the concept of the external dimension and the identification of the strategies necessary to strengthen it within the Bologna Process.	30 March – 1 April 2006 Rome, Italy
External dimension: Putting the European Higher Education Area on the Map: Developing Strategies for Attractiveness.	Greece	The seminar presented information about the Bologna Process to an external audience. It focussed on information about how the Bologna process operates and what has been achieved so far in terms of the links and interaction with other areas of the world.	25 -26 June 2006 Athens, Greece
Preparing students for the labour market and lifelong learning – promoting employability of graduates with bachelor qualifications?	United Kingdom/ Wales	ESIB, EURASHE and UNICE contributed to the seminar.	12-14 July 2006 Swansea, Wales, UK
Joint degrees – a hallmark of EHEA	Germany	The seminar discussed recent developments as well as the future potential of joint degree programmes. It introduced findings of a study carried out in 2006; presented examples of good practice and discussed possible solutions for existing problems with practitioners and decision makers.	21-22 September 2006 Berlin, Germany
External dimension: competitiveness and capacity building	Norway	The Nordic seminar was opened by the Norwegian Minister of Education and Research and closed by the Swedish Minister of Education, Research and Culture. Emphasis was on areas not focused on in previous seminars eg competitiveness and capacity building.	28 - 29 September 2006 Oslo, Norway
Seminar on European doctoral studies in transition	EUA France with Austria	Part of work on 3 rd cycle Further information about the EUA's Doctoral Programmes Project is available on: http://www.eua.be/eua/en/Doctoral_Programmes.jspx	7-9 December 2006. Nice. France
Recognition of prior learning and recognition of European degrees outside Europe	Latvia/CofE with ESIB	Poland, ESIB and Belgium (Flemish Community) interested in helping to organise. Link with event under consideration by the Netherlands.	25-26 January 2007, Riga, Latvia
Making Bologna a reality – staff mobility	EI Pan European Structure	EI Pan European Structure Higher Education and Research Standing Committee will finalise the project mid-March	8-9 February 2007, London, England, UK

Discussion At BFUG		
Subject	Notes	Comments
Share expertise to build capacity at institutional and government level		Initial discussion at BFUG, October 2005; agreed Council of Europe and others would continue to offer support as appropriate.
Assisting the new participating countries to implement the goals of the Process		Initial discussion at BFUG, October 2005; Austria and Council of Europe organised an induction meeting for the new member countries in January 2006; report back was given at BFUG, April 2006.
Portability of grants and loans	Proposed by Netherlands	Initial discussion at BFUG 7, October 2005: it was agreed that the Netherlands, in conjunction with other interested parties, would prepare a proposal for further discussion. It was later agreed at BFUG 8 in April 2006 to form a Working Group.
Awarding professional and academic titles – using new three cycle degree system	Proposed by Slovenia	Following further reflection, Slovenia suggested discussion of this topic be deferred until a future date.
Future development of EHEA post 2010 – global and European competition/co-operation, academic mobility etc?	Proposed by UNESCO-CEPES	Link to initial discussion of BFUG October 2006: agreed to give further thought to description of EHEA and development beyond 2010 as part of the Communiqué Drafting Process.
Social dimension	Proposed by France & Germany	Link to discussion of proposals from Working Group on social dimension and data on the mobility of staff and students in participating countries.
European dimension (including joint degrees)	Proposed by France	Agreed at October 2006 BFUG that a discussion of the European Dimension, lead by France, would take place at the March 2007 BFUG.
Staff mobility	Proposed by EI - Pan European Structure	Link to discussion of proposals from Working Group on social dimension and data on the mobility of staff and students in participating countries.

Discussion At BFUG Continued		
Subject	Notes	Comments
Mobility	Proposed by ESIB and Germany	Link to discussion of proposals from Working Group on social dimension and data on the mobility of staff and students in participating countries.
Implementation of Quality Assurance standards and guidelines	Proposed by Germany	Link to update from ENQA on European Consultative Forum
Implementation of National Qualifications Frameworks	Proposed by Germany	Link to the report on implementation and further development of overarching qualifications framework.
Exploration of arrangements to support the Process in the future.	Proposed by UNESCO-CEPES	Link to initial discussion of BFUG October 2006: agreed to give further thought to description of EHEA and development beyond 2010 as part of the Communiqué Drafting Process.
External relations - feedback from international events	Proposed by Austria	Include on BFUG agendas as and when required

Projects			
Subject	Lead	Notes	Start
Report on practicalities of implementing a European register of quality assurance agencies – by ENQA in co-operation with EUA, EURASHE and ESIB.	ENQA	<p>Terms of Reference (BFUG7 5b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. E4 group to develop the Register in accordance with the proposals contained in the ENQA Report and endorsed in the Bergen communiqué, subject to the outcome of further analysis by E4 into the purposes and value of the Register; 2. ENQA, on behalf of E4 Group, informed BFUG of the results and subsequent timetable at the April 2006 BFUG meeting. 	Terms of Reference agreed by BFUG in October 2005.
Preparation of report on further development of the basic principles for doctoral programmes – EUA, with other interested partners	EUA with Austria France ESIB EuroDoc	<p>Terms of Reference (BFUG7 5a Annex B)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To prepare a report on the further development of the (agreed) basic principles for doctoral programmes to be presented to Ministers in 2007; 2. Thus to continue work on the basis of the 10 Salzburg Seminar Recommendations and taking specific account of the issues mentioned in the relevant § of the Bergen Communiqué; 3. Thereby taking account of the results achieved and the good practice identified by the 49 Universities participating in the EUA Doctorates Programme project that provided the input for the Salzburg Seminar; and 4. To prepare recommendations for the London Communiqué as an integral part of the report. 	Terms of Reference agreed by BFUG in October 2005.

National & Stocktaking Priorities

- Implement the degree system, quality assurance and the recognition of degrees and study periods (stocktaking)
- Implement the ENQA standards and guidelines for QA (stocktaking)
- Introduce peer review of quality assurance agencies
- Improve student participation and international cooperation in QA
- Elaborate national qualifications frameworks compatible with the overarching framework for qualifications of the EHEA (to be started by 2007) (stocktaking)
- Award and recognition of joint degrees, including at doctorate level (stocktaking)
- Ratify the Lisbon Recognition Convention, ensure full implementation of its principles and incorporate in national legislation as required
- Produce a national plan to improve the recognition of foreign qualifications (stocktaking)
- Create opportunities for flexible learning paths, including recognition of prior learning (non-formal and informal) (stocktaking)
- Remove any obstacles to access between cycles
- Make higher education equally accessible to all
- Ensure necessary institutional autonomy to implement reforms
- Improve synergy between HE and other research sectors
- Achieve an overall increase in the number of doctoral candidates taking up research careers
- Intensify co-operation with business and social partners
- Increase employability of graduates (stocktaking)
- Facilitate the portability of loans and grants
- Lift obstacles to mobility and make full use of mobility programmes, advocating full recognition of study periods abroad within such programmes

Bologna Secretariat
August 2006