

# **ESG 2027 - DRAFT 2**

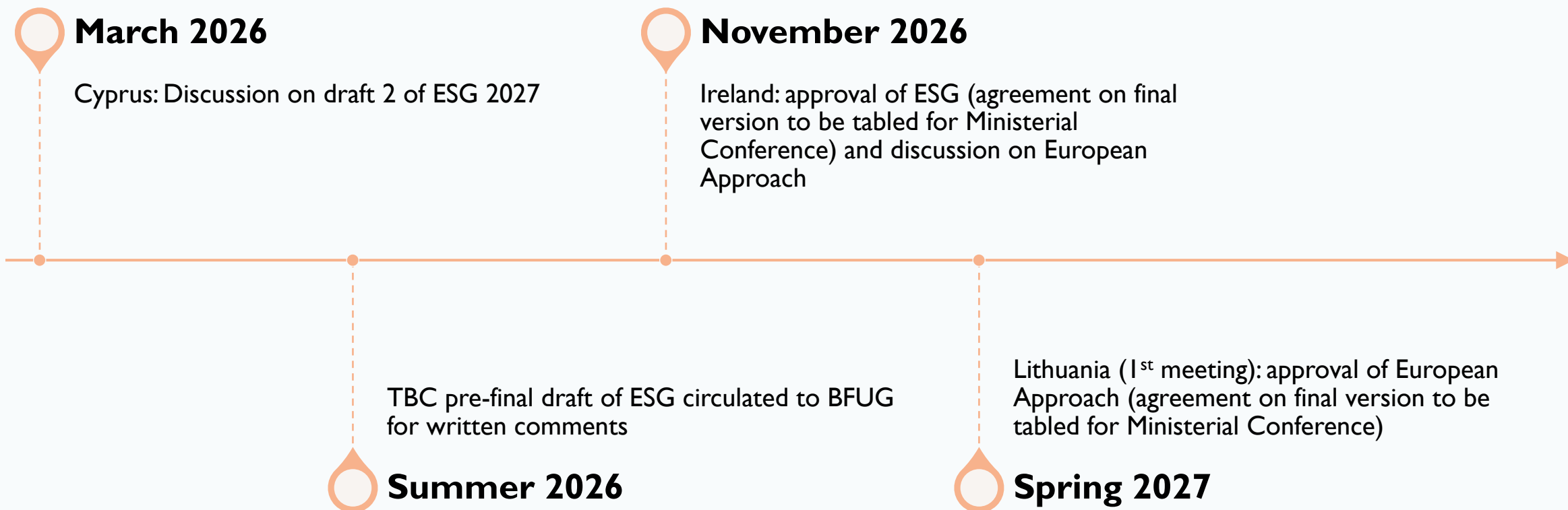
**BFUG NICOSIA**

**9-10 MARCH 2026**

**ANNA GOVER, ON BEHALF OF THE ESG STEERING COMMITTEE**

**enqa.**

# BFUG CONSULTATIONS



**March 2026**

Cyprus: Discussion on draft 2 of ESG 2027

**November 2026**

Ireland: approval of ESG (agreement on final version to be tabled for Ministerial Conference) and discussion on European Approach

**Summer 2026**

TBC pre-final draft of ESG circulated to BFUG for written comments

**Spring 2027**

Lithuania (1<sup>st</sup> meeting): approval of European Approach (agreement on final version to be tabled for Ministerial Conference)

# CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Stakeholder category	Responses	Organisational	Individual
Higher education institution	122	80	42
Quality assurance agency	53	47	6
National/regional authority or government	22	21	1
Student	72	22	50
Stakeholder organisation/association	29	27	2
Independent/unaffiliated	7	6	1
Other	17	12	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>107</b>

# CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- Overall endorsement of direction of changes
- Comments on general/transversal topics e.g. request for addition of artificial intelligence
- Comments on approach, language and consistency for standards vs guidelines
- Comments on new requirements that are unclear and/or feedback that demonstrates misunderstanding/different interpretations
- Concrete opinions and suggestions on changes to specific standards

## **BFUG DISCUSSION TODAY**

**The BFUG is invited to give feedback, part by part, on the latest draft of the ESG and the changes implemented following the consultation.**

The ESG Steering Committee will meet again on 25 March 2026 to discuss the feedback and implement further changes (including working on consistency, clarity and language, and to decide on points still under discussion by the Steering Committee).

# CONTEXT, SCOPE, PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

- Enhanced reference to social dimension and fundamental values, including links to relevant EHEA documents.
- Addition of digital transformation and artificial intelligence as developments that affect the context of quality assurance.
- Explicit mention of ESG applicability to digital education provision, lifelong learning, and short units of learning.
- Deletion of principle relating to international cooperation (overlap with similar statement in the purposes).
- Further development of the glossary.

# PART I MAIN CHANGES

## I.1 Policy for quality assurance

- Clearer expectations that quality assurance policies must be public, communicated internally and externally.
- More clarity regarding the involvement of staff, alongside students and other stakeholders.
- Academic integrity explicitly linked to the responsible use of artificial intelligence and digital technologies.

# PART I MAIN CHANGES

## 1.2 Design, approval, ongoing monitoring and periodic review of programmes

- Change of terminology from “learning outcomes methodology” to “learning-outcomes-based approach”
- Added alignment with professional and disciplinary standards.
- Removal of duplicated explanations already covered elsewhere.

# PART I MAIN CHANGES

## 1.3 Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment

- Explicit mention that any use of artificial intelligence in learning, teaching and assessment must be responsible, human-centred and subject to human oversight.

## 1.5 Teaching staff

- Added reference to importance of having staff under permanent employment.
- New emphasis on staff well-being and mental health.

# PART I MAIN CHANGES

## I.6 Learning environment

- Explicit mention of adequate physical and digital infrastructure to be provided to students.

## I.7 Information management

- New emphasis on periodic collection of reliable and up-to-date data.

# PART I MAIN CHANGES

## I.8 Public information

- Emphasis on the clarity, accuracy, objectivity, accessibility and up-to-date character of the public data
- More flexibility regarding the information collected by institutions in the guidelines (“where available and appropriate”)

## I.9 Cyclical external quality assurance

- Explicit expectation to for institutions to address outcomes from previous external reviews, where relevant.

## PART 2 MAIN CHANGES

### 2.3 Implementing processes

- Recommendation in the guidelines that online and hybrid participation of different stakeholder groups in the site visit could lead to a wider participation.
- Flexibility in organising the different activities specific to quality assurance processes is also mentioned in the guidelines.

### 2.5 Reporting

- The order of standards on *Processes and criteria for outcomes* (previous 2.5) and *Reporting* (previous 2.6) is switched

## PART 2 MAIN CHANGES

### 2.6 Processes and criteria for outcomes

- All documents on which decision making is based, besides the review report, have to be published, in addition to the decision/outcome. The requirement is moved here from the standard on reporting to make clear that it related to documents regarding the final decision-making.
- Clarified the requirement of transparency on the outcomes and if and how they can be recognised by relevant authorities, in order to compensate for deletion of ESG 2015 standard 3.2.

## PART 2 MAIN CHANGES

### 2.6 Complaints and appeals

- Clarified that the formulation “by a different structure than the one whose decision is appealed against” means a structure which is part of the agency.

## PART 3 MAIN CHANGES

### 3.1 Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance

- Added recommendation in the guidelines that stakeholders can be involved in diverse ways depending on the structure and mission of agencies.

### 3.3 Activities for enhancement

- Expanded the description of the standard to include more diverse activities and retain focus the analytical dimension that was present in the 2015 version (ESG 3.4).

## PART 3 MAIN CHANGES

### 3.5 Professional conduct and integrity

- Standard slightly reworded for clarity.
- To be further discussed whether this will remain as a stand-alone standard or to be merged with ESG 3.6. In case it remains as a stand-alone standard, the distinction between integrity and internal quality assurance to be further discussed.

### 3.6 Internal quality assurance

- Reference to integrity removed to address overlap with ESG 3.5.