

Bologna Implementation Coordination Group proposals on the Self-certification Process

Background

The implementation of national qualification frameworks compatible with the QF-EHEA is one of the Bologna Process key commitments. Ensuring the compliance with this key commitment and, thus, the alignment of the NQF with the QF-EHEA requires the completion of a self-certification process. The practice has been that the self-certification reports are presented in the meetings of the National Correspondents on Qualification Frameworks of the Council of Europe, which was in previous working periods also formally a BFUG working structure. Council of Europe does not operate the National Correspondents group anymore and it has thus not been a part of the BFUG working structures starting from 2024.

TPG A working group on Self-Certification prepared a report “[Guidelines, observations, and recommendations](#)” in 2023, which included a procedure to conduct the self-certification and guidelines for its structure. The report highlights that the purpose of the presentation of the self-certification report is to facilitate transparency of national qualifications frameworks and systems of higher education and ensure a platform for peer learning and exchange of good practices between the EHEA countries. Therefore, the presentation of the self-certification report and discussion with other EHEA members is an essential part of the implementation of the NQF.

In late 2025, the Secretariat received the first self-certification report of the NQF with QF-EHEA of this cycle (2024-2027) from our Andorran colleagues. The report has been published on the EHEA website.

It is our view that the TPG A on QFs has the best expertise of all current BFUG structures to act as a platform for the presentation of self-certification reports, to facilitate transparency of national qualification framework, and to provide peer learning possibilities on this topic. In addition, the European Commission and Council of Europe are both members of the TPG A and therefore would be engaged in the process. TPG A can also report to the EQF Advisory Group about self-certification reports which are presented in TPG A, since many self-certification reports with QF-EHEA are included in the referencing with EQF, ensuring good communication and exchange of information between EQF and QF-EHEA.

Furthermore, as presented by the Working Group on Monitoring in the last BFUG meeting, the proposal for the indicator on the QF-EHEA in the 2027 edition of the Bologna Process Implementation Report considers whether a self-certification exercise has been conducted in the last 10 years. Whereas there is no timeframe for the revision of the self-certification reports, it is expected that BFUG members would submit a revised report when major changes occur in their NQF or when their NQF is updated.

Proposed action from the BICG to the BFUG

1. Endorse the 'Guidelines' prepared by the TPG A as the process for submitting the self-certification report.
2. Adjust the ToRs of the BICG and mandate TPG A to act as the platform for presenting self-certification reports and to provide expertise and feedback about self-certification reports to the members and to the BFUG (annex).
3. Advise BFUG members that they should revisit their self-certification report and decide whether an update is necessary, informing the EHEA Secretariat accordingly. In addition, BFUG could consider whether a 10-year time limit should be set as guideline for revisiting their self-certification report.