

Update on the National Action Plans

According to the Tirana Communiqué, *‘the 2024 Bologna Process Implementation Report confirms and illustrates the still incomplete and uneven implementation of these key commitments, but also the important contribution of the Thematic Peer Groups under the guidance of the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group in improving the situation. Therefore, we commit to ensuring that we have, or will devise, and will publish appropriate action plans to address any remaining implementation gaps, and to promoting knowledge-sharing activities related to the EHEA’.*

Together with the Terms of Reference for the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG), the BICG prepared and the BFUG adopted, through online adoption procedure in January 2025, the [Template for the National Action Plans](#) (NAPs).

As the [Work Programme](#) adopted by the BFUG included a Thematic Peer Group on Social Dimension, the template for the NAPs also included a section on Social Dimension, apart from the sections on Qualifications Frameworks, Recognition and Quality Assurance.

The BFUG at its XCV meeting in Warsaw agreed with the 1st of May 2025 as the deadline for submitting the National Action Plans. Nevertheless, around a half of the BFUG members managed to comply with the extended deadline (end of May 2025).

However, by the XCVII BFUG meeting in Copenhagen, the EHEA Secretariat received 40 out of the 49 National Action Plans expected to be submitted, counting 2 expected NAPs for Belgium and the United Kingdom respectively. The NAP still missing by the BFUG meeting in Copenhagen are from: Azerbaijan, Belgium – Flemish Community, Bulgaria, Holy See, Latvia, North Macedonia, San Marino, Serbia, Ukraine.

Once received, the NAPs were published on the EHEA website on the dedicated section for each [BFUG member](#).

The Secretariat prepared various compilations of the data included in the National Action Plans, as follows:

- i) **Compilation per Thematic Peer Group of the National Action Plans:**
 - a. [TPG A on Qualifications Frameworks](#)
 - b. [TPG B on Recognition](#)
 - c. [TPG C on Quality Assurance](#)
 - d. [TPG D on Social Dimension](#)
- ii) **Compilation per Thematic Peer Group of the actions included in the National Action Plans**
 - a. [TPG A on Qualifications Frameworks](#)
 - b. [TPG B on Recognition](#)
 - c. [TPG C on Quality Assurance](#)
 - d. [TPG D on Social Dimension](#)

The two compilations allow the Thematic Peer Groups to identify challenges, individual country priorities and issues where targeted peer action might be valuable. They also offer an insightful information source for stakeholders and interested parties in identifying the way in which BFUG members aim to address the implementation gap for the EHEA key commitments.

iii) Identifying the main topics present across the National Action Plans

The Secretariat aggregated the data from the actions included in the National Action Plans, outlining the main topics identified across the plans. The national action plans included both areas where implementation is lagging and areas where BFUG members want to improve the status quo even when commitments had already been met. Therefore, the analysis of the main topics allows Thematic Peer Groups to identify areas of common interest and to assess them against the planned activities of the Thematic Peer Groups.

For the key commitment 1 (QFs), the most prevalent topics included in the NAPs were micro-credentials, the self-certification process, supporting ECTS implementation, integrating the short-cycle, implementing learning outcomes, degree structure reform, flexibility of QFs for alternative pathways, and databases for QFs. All but ECTS implementation had been topics already identified in the activities of the TPG A.

For the key commitment 2 (Recognition), the most prevalent topics included in the NAPs were automatic recognition, improving recognition legislation, policies and practices, digitalization, recognition of refugees' qualifications. All topics had been identified in the activities of the TPG B except the recognition of prior learning, which lately had been addressed by the structures working on social dimension.

For the key commitment 3 (QA), the most prevalent topics included in the NAPs were legislative compliance with the ESG, improving internal QA and the Quality culture, implementing the European Approach for the QA of Joint Programmes, Digitalisation of QA processes, QA of micro-credentials, QA of transnational education and QA of research. All except the QA of research had been identified in the work of the TPG C.

For social dimension, the main topics identified in the NAPs were the provision of study grants, developing strategies on social dimension, supporting students with disabilities, data collection and monitoring and student housing. As the activities of the TPG D focus on implementing the Principles and Guidelines on Strengthening the Social Dimension in EHEA, all topics could be integrated within one of the ten principles.

The BFUG members also included additional themes in the National Action Plans, notably Internationalisation and Mobility, Fundamental Values, Learning and Teaching, Artificial Intelligence or Digitalisation. Out of these, the topic of Internationalisation and Mobility was included in roughly half of the NAPs, showcasing its central role and relation with the key commitments.

In the case of TPG C, at the request of the co-chairs, the Secretariat also provided a table including all the BFUG members and each of the topics included in their action plans, marking the topics corresponding to the actions of each country.

iv) **Overview of the link between NAPs and the 2024 Bologna Process Implementation Report**

As mentioned in the introduction, the Tirana Communiqué mandated the creation of the national action plans particularly with the intention to address the implementation gaps identified in the 2024 edition of the Bologna Process Implementation Report (BPIR) regarding the key commitments.

Subsequently, the EHEA Secretariat prepared a comparison between the NAPs and the BPIR 2024, identifying the extent to which the actions in the NAPs address the situation identified in BPIR 2024, as well as which relevant indicators from BPIR are not covered by corresponding actions in the NAPs.

The document was presented to the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group and submitted through e-mail for consultation with BFUG members in November 2025.

Several BFUG members sent observations outlining the improvement of the status quo since the submission of the NAPs, as well as additional actions to implement EHEA key commitments. In the latter cases, the BFUG members had the possibility to revise their national action plans and thus include the additional actions. When BFUG members revised their NAP, the Secretariat adjusted accordingly the information on the website and relevant materials.

After integrating all the input received from the BFUG members, the document will be made available on the BICG section of the EHEA website.