

Updates on the organisation of the Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum

Iași – Chișinău, 26 – 27 May 2027

Background

The 2027 Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum is organised by the ministries of education and research of the Republic of Moldova and Romania, with the support of the EHEA Secretariat.

The organisation of the conference and forum benefits of funding provided through Erasmus+ Programme, through the following projects:

- *Support for the 2024-2027 Moldovan-Romanian EHEA Secretariat: Delivering together for a renewed Bologna Process” (EHEA-SEC-4-BP)*
- *Support for the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue (GLOBAL 2030)*

At the Ninety-fifth Bologna Follow-Up Group meeting, hosted by Poland, in Warsaw, between 24th-25th of February 2025, the BFUG **approved the date** for the ministerial conference, as well as the roadmap for the organisation of the conference:

- BFUG XCVII meeting (15 – 16 December 2025, Denmark): Discuss the **save-the-dates text** and the proposed **list** of invited countries and organisations from outside EHEA
- BFUG XCIX meeting (9 – 10 March 2026, Cyprus): Discuss the **invitation** and the draft **agenda** (only with timings)
- BFUG CI meeting (October 2026, Ireland): Discuss the **Practical Information Note** and the **draft agenda**
- BFUG CIII meeting (early Spring 2027, Lithuania): Discuss the **final agenda**

Save the date

The **Save the date** announcement is annexed to this document (Annex I and II). It is not only communicating the dates for the 2027 Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum, but also the next steps, so that those invited would know what to expect in terms of further information.

Following the XCVII BFUG Board meeting in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, and prior to the XCVIII BFUG meeting in Denmark, the EHEA Secretariat will collect the contact information for the ‘Save-the-dates’ dedicated to the EHEA members, consultative members and partners. After the XCVIII BFUG meeting in Denmark, the ‘Save-the-dates’ will be sent by the Moldovan and Romanian authorities through email to the EHEA members, consultative members and partners.

For the non-EHEA members, upon the approval of the list of invitees by the BFUG in Copenhagen, the Moldovan and Romanian authorities will send the Save-the-dates through email, for the countries included in the list.

Invitees

The invitees to the Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum are:

- all BFUG members, consultative members and EHEA partners,
- representatives of international organisations, regional cooperation bodies, international networks and countries based on their interest shown in the Bologna Process, previous collaborations and/or engagement in shared policy topics.

The starting point for drafting the list for non-EHEA invitees is the one used for the Tirana Ministerial Conference, with additions proposed by the hosts or the members of the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue. The list was discussed within the 3rd meeting of the group, organised between 29 and 30 September 2025 in Bucharest, and the XCVII BFUG Board meeting, organised on 4 November 2025 in Vaduz, and is annexed to this document (Annex III).

As at the previous ministerial conferences, the proposed size of the EHEA delegations is 5 persons (out of which one higher education institution representative and one student representative), while for the non-EHEA countries and organisations, it is proposed a delegation of 2 persons. A proposal to increase the size of EHEA delegations to 6 persons was received from ETUCE, as well as one from EUA related to the non-EHEA delegations, that could include 4 persons, out of which one higher education institution representative and one student representative. Moreover, the BFUG Board members raised the question regarding the participation of co-chairs of the working structures. All proposals are carefully considered, upon a thorough analysis on the maximum capacity for different venues used for the meetings and dinners.

The BFUG members are invited to discuss the save the date text and the composition of the list of non-EHEA countries and organisations to be invited at the 2027 Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum.