

Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue 3rd Meeting

29th-30th of September 2025

Bucharest/Hybrid

Minutes of the meeting

List of participants

Country/Institution	First Name	Last Name	Attendance
Austria	Michael	Roither	Online
Austria	Katalin	Szondy	Online
EUA	Elizabeth	Colucci	In person
Education International – ETUCE	Hanna	Tanskanen	In person
ENQA	Luis	Miranda	In person
ESU	Katariina	Järve	In person
EURASHE	Ana	Duplava	Online
France	Mathieu	Musquin	In person
Germany	Nils	Tensi	Online
Germany	Stefanie	Engert	In person
Holy See	Melanie	Rosenbaum	Online
Italy (Co-Chair)	Elisa	Petrucci	In person
Italy	Marianna	Tardioli	In person
Kazakhstan	Rauza	Mendaliyeva	In person
Malta	Jon	Vercellono	In person
Moldova (Co-Chair)	Nina	Puțuntean	In person
Montenegro	Milica	Kavedzic	Online
North Macedonia	Borčo	Aleksov	In person
Norway	Andreas	Snildal	In person
Romania (BFUG Vice-Chair)	Cristina	Ghițulică	In person
Romania	Luminița	Matei	In person
Romania	Mădălina	Matei	In person
Romania	Elmira	Chengiali	In person
Romania	Adrian	Iordache	In person
Slovakia	Martina	Kokavec Beďatšová	Online
UNESCO (Co-Chair)	Noah	Webster	In person
UNESCO (Co-Chair)	Leila	Loupis	In person
EHEA Secretariat (Head)	Horia	Onița	In person
EHEA Secretariat	Oana	Țînțar	In person
EHEA Secretariat	Irina	Duma	Online

The European Commission sent their apologies. Albania and Azerbaijan were absent.

1. Welcome remarks and introduction to the meeting

The Co-Chairs opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to Bucharest, Romania, and thanking the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research and the University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest for hosting the group meeting, as well as the EHEA Secretariat for their support.

2. Adoption of the agenda and of the 2nd CG on GPD meeting minutes

Documents: [3rd CG on GPD Meeting Agenda](#); [2nd CG on GPD Meeting Minutes](#)

The Moldovan Co-Chair opened the floor for discussing the meeting agenda. There were no remarks and, therefore, the agenda was adopted. Regarding the meeting minutes of the 2nd CG on GPD meeting, the Holy See mentioned an observation sent directly to the EHEA Secretariat regarding the participation list and agreed with the meeting minutes provided that the participation list would be revised. Since there were no other comments, the 2nd CG on GPD Meeting Minutes were acknowledged.

3. Presentation of the GLOBAL 2030 project objectives and activities

Documents: [GLOBAL 2030 presentation](#)

The UNESCO Co-Chair briefly introduced the GLOBAL 2030 project funded by the European Union, aiming at supporting the work of the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue, followed by a presentation by the EHEA Secretariat (Oana Țîntar, as GLOBAL 2030 Project Manager on behalf of UEFISCDI as the coordinator). She presented the project timeline (July 2025 – June 2028), the partners (Ministry of Education and Research of Romania, Ministry of Education and Research of Moldova, CIMEA – Italy, EURASHE, and UNESCO as associated partner), as well as the aim to support cooperation and transparency and to consolidate trust between EHEA and other macro-regions, countries, and organizations. The strategic project objectives are: 1) to ensure adequate coordination in global policy dialogue between EHEA and other macro-regions through supporting the organization of the CG GPD meetings; 2) to increase collaboration with other macro-regions and the alignment of policy tools; 3) to support the organization of the Global Policy Forum (GPF) 2027 in Iași-Chișinău. The UEFISCDI representative also went through the content of the work packages, explaining the role of each partner and the deliverables to be developed.

Following the GLOBAL 2030 presentation, Germany asked about the online presence of the project. The EHEA Secretariat clarified that the project would feature online through website sections on the partners' main websites, as well as on the EHEA website, in November 2025, according to the activities' deadline.

4. Presentation of the Ministries of Education and Research of Republic of Moldova and of Romania – Global Policy Forum

The Moldovan Co-Chair conveyed a message from the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova, in the context of co-hosting the Global Policy Forum (GPF) 2027 in Iași and Chișinău. She presented the tentative schedules of 2027, namely starting the event on May 25th with an informal dinner hosted by the Romanian authorities, followed by the

Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum on May 26th in Iași (Romania), and on May 27th in Chișinău (Moldova). The transport of participants between Iași and Chișinău would be provided by the two hosts. The tentative timeline for the preparation of the GPF consists in sending the Save-The-Dates to the national authorities after the BFUG Meeting XCVII (held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2025), sending the invitation and draft agenda containing timings only after the BFUG Meeting XCIX (held in Cyprus, in Spring 2026), sending the practical information note with the draft agenda after the BFUG Meeting CI (held in Ireland, in Autumn 2026), and sharing the final agenda after the BFUG Meeting CIII (held in Lithuania, in Spring 2027).

5. Updates and discussion on the CG on GPD next steps and activities

4.1. Discussion on the CG on GPD Work Programme, including thematic priorities addressed, the alternation of CG on GPD meeting formats and potential stakeholders

Documents: [Presentation of the work of the CG on GPD](#)

The Italian Co-Chair presented the composition of the CG on GPD, and the objectives set out through the Tirana Ministerial Communiqué. The first objective is rooted in the main goal of the group, set since its establishment in 2009, namely, to ensure and coordinate dialogue and enhance trust with other macro-regions, thus improving cooperation. In this line, the Co-Chair reiterated the agreement of the group following the first two meetings of the 2024-2027 work period, respectively to support mutual understanding on key principles regarding the EHEA key commitments as well as ethical, international and academic cooperation. The group also decided to identify themes of common interest, contributing to fostering quality education for all (SDG 4.3), such as the right to education and the social dimension, lifelong learning and micro-credentials, with digitalisation and AI as transversal topics. In terms of methodology, the CG on GPD decided to have a topic-based approach, namely, to work horizontally on thematic priorities, instead of working vertically on geographical regions.

In this regard, on September 29th-30th, after the CG GPD meeting, the group would host a peer-learning activity (PLA) on recognition and quality assurance, where external stakeholders (from both EHEA and non-EHEA countries) were invited. Moreover, the Italian co-chair underlined the importance of working in synergy with other EHEA working structures, such as the Thematic Peer Groups, the Task Force on the Future of Bologna and the Working Group on Internationalisation and Mobility. According to the CG on GPD Terms of Reference, initiatives and platforms active at European and international levels would also be taken into consideration. Moreover, the group is responsible for drafting the Global Policy Statement as well as for drafting specific policy recommendations on key topics resulting from the open meetings with stakeholders.

The presentation also included a timeline showing the main activities that the CG on GPD will carry out during the 2024-2027 mandate, and how these activities are linked to the BFUG timeline. The timeline also showed the deadlines for the group's key outcomes.

Following the Co-chairs presentations, the BFUG Vice-Chair underlined the necessity to send the Save-The-Dates for both the Ministerial Conference and the GPF in December 2025, therefore the list of countries and stakeholders to be invited should be finalised before the BFUG meeting

in Copenhagen and approved by the BFUG in December 2025. However, she added that should any other additional invitations be considered, the list could be slightly revised afterwards.

France thanked the presenters for establishing a clear timeline for the Global Policy Forum and asked about the plans for collecting input from other macro-regions in the process of drafting the Global Policy Statement. The Italian co-chair clarified that the three Co-Chairs had worked on an initial proposal for the drafting process of the Global Policy Statement as well as a plan for engaging external stakeholders. This would be shared with the Group by the UNESCO Co-Chair, in the next presentation, in order to gather their input.

4.2. The tentative list of stakeholders engaged in the Global Policy Forum and invited to participate

The UNESCO Co-Chair presented the list of stakeholders linked to different thematic areas identified by the CG on GPD members in the first two meetings, and the tentative list of countries and stakeholders to be invited at the GPF, drafted by the Romanian and Moldovan co-hosts based on the 2024 Tirana GPF list of invitations, and circulated to the CG on GPD members prior to the current meeting.

Germany suggested to add the ASEAN Youth Organization to the stakeholders list. The Holy See noted the absence of several African countries signatories of the [Addis Convention on Recognition](#), also considered key partners, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo. Regarding Asian countries, the Holy See suggested adding Bangladesh and Bhutan, and proposed to send an extended list of suggestions for South American countries to be added. Nonetheless, she asked about the way in which the situation regarding Israel and the State of Palestine would be tackled from the GPF perspective.

Norway asked whether the Tirana list refers to those invited or the attendees of the 2024 Global Policy Forum, with the UNESCO Co-Chair clarifying that the list refers to those invited. Following this clarification, Norway (seconded by France) asked to share the list of attendance for the 2024 GPF for further reference. The Romanian BFUG Vice-Chair clarified that the invitations for the Tirana GPF were sent late, resulting in a low participation, but suggested to look over the attendees from previous GPFs, proposing that the EHEA Secretariat provide a list of countries and stakeholders in this regard. The Head of Secretariat noted that the lists for each Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum are published on the [EHEA website, yet lists of external guests were circulated to the Romanian and Moldovan hosts, which could also be forwarded to the group](#). He also mentioned that, looking at the attendance rate, the GPF in Paris in 2018 was very successful in this regard.

Further on, France asked about the possibility of inviting project coordinators, such as DAAD involved with ASEAN in the SCOPE-Higher Education project, and other such organizations. The Head of Secretariat clarified that the list of organizations to be invited at the GPF also included such project coordinators, therefore in principle there was openness to include additional project coordinators.

Italy reiterated that in the 2nd CG on GPD meeting the members matched the list of organizations and the list of topics to be addressed by the group in the 2024-2027 work period. The aim of this matching had been to also identify additional organizations deemed relevant to the Global Policy Dialogue and engage them in the Global Policy Forum.

ENQA added that there were several countries actively taking part in some of the [HAQAA₃ initiative](#)'s activities, which could be added to the list of countries, such as: Botswana, Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea, Lesotho and Malawi, taking also into account that Lesotho's Council on Higher Education holds the vice-presidency of the AfriQAN Network. The suggestion was also supported by The Holy See.

Concluding this discussion, the Romanian BFUG Vice-Chair thanked the participants for the comments and proposals, assuring that they would be included in the lists of invitations for the GPF. The Italian Co-chair added that the list would be circulated following the meeting among the CG on GPD members, to comment on and make additional suggestions.

The BFUG Vice-chair mentioned that two delegates should be invited from each country, thus not expecting the Head of Delegation to attend alone. In this context, Germany opened the discussion about the logistical arrangements in terms of delegation size. The Moldovan Co-chair confirmed that there are no limitations in terms of number of participants for the Global Policy Forum, given that the event would be organised at the premises of Palace of the Republic, the same being valid for the Romanian co-hosts. The Holy See asked whether the rooms' set-up would allow having official delegates (ministries) sit in the first row at both events, and the Romanian BFUG Vice-Chair confirmed the possibility to flexibly arrange the rooms according to the number of participants.

EUA underlined that they already informed partners about the upcoming GPF 2027 and thus suggested to have clear communication channels regarding the invitation process and the role of invitees, ensuring coherent communication and management of expectations, including pertaining to funding options. The Head of Secretariat agreed with the necessity of setting the right expectations regarding the role of externals in the Global Policy Forum and the elaboration of the statement, considering prior experience. Therefore, he suggested including general explanations from the very beginning of the communication process, namely by the time of sending the Save-The-Date.

The Romanian BFUG Vice-Chair also clarified that the communication with countries would be handled through the embassies, and that with organizations directly. She also suggested communicating the tentative timeline for the further communication, so that the countries and organizations invited would be aware of the moments they would receive further details about both events. In terms of engaging those invited in the GPF, she suggested explaining the tentative content of the event. Moreover, when having meetings with various organisations, the GPF could also be brought into discussion, to enhance attendance.

The Italian Co-chair underlined the different layers of communication with stakeholders, and suggested that the CG on GPD should decide on the means to ensure coherent communication, ways to involve external stakeholders in the process of drafting the Global Policy Statement, and their meaningful participation in the GPF. She reiterated that these points could be identified in the PLAs organized by the CG on GPD on various topics, as well as in other contexts of collaboration.

4.3. The Global Policy Forum Statement: call for consultations and drafting process

The UNESCO Co-Chair explained that the process for drafting the Global Policy Forum Statement would begin with circulating a call for volunteers among the CG on GPD members, which would include the timeline of the drafting process and the organization of work in order to meet the deadlines. Members of the CG on GPD would be asked to respond to this call of volunteers within three weeks. Once the drafting team would be established, Co-Chairs of this team would be determined. The respective Co-Chairs will prepare the initial draft of the Statement, which should outline the structure and the main principles to be included in the document. This initial draft will be discussed at the 4th CG on GPD meeting in February 2026, in Italy. This initial draft would be shared with the remaining CG on GPD members, as well as with external partners for feedback. The first draft would be developed afterwards and followed by the same circulation round among CG on GPD members and partners, in line with the timeline for the group. Based on the suggestions received, the first draft would be presented in the BFUG Meeting in autumn 2026.

The meeting ended with no further comments, and the Co-Chairs thanked everyone for their active participation.