

## Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Monitoring the Implementation of the Bologna Process, 2024- 2027

Name of the working structure	Working Group on Monitoring the Implementation of the Bologna Process
Work period	2024-2027
Co-chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eurydice – David Crosier</li> <li>• Malta – TBC</li> <li>• Austria – Helga Posset</li> </ul>
Composition	Albania, Cyprus, Education International – ETUCE, EQAR, EUA, Eurostudent, ESU, France, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia. Türkiye
Reference to the Tirana Communiqué	<i>“We mandate the BFUG to ensure that policy commitments aiming at creating by 2030 an inclusive, innovative, and interconnected EHEA, mindful of the fundamental values, are properly monitored, including through a Bologna Process Implementation Report that assesses key developments.”</i>
Main goals	<p>To guide the preparation of the Bologna Process Implementation Report for 2027;</p> <p>To identify sources of reliable, comparable data relevant for the EHEA that are feasible to be provided and analysed;</p> <p>To make further progress in improving a structured model for future monitoring of the EHEA;</p> <p>To ensure that accurate comparisons on all policy commitments can be made between countries and that implementation and other changes are transparent.</p>
Outcomes	<p>Bologna Process Implementation Report 2027</p> <p>Plans for future monitoring</p>
Specific tasks	<p>Oversee all stages of the production of the report:</p> <p>Identification of content required to measure policy commitments;</p> <p>Selection of a limited number of indicators to submit as a proposal for BFUG approval;</p> <p>Development of questionnaire;</p> <p>Data analysis</p> <p>Report drafting</p> <p>Planning for future monitoring</p>
Meetings	One meeting for each 6 months period, ideally around one month before the BFUG meetings. Meetings will mostly take place online or in Brussels.
Liaison with other working structures	The working group will sustain strong coordination with all BFUG working structures. In particular, it will ensure close cooperation, through overlapping membership, with the working group on

	Fundamental Values and with the BICG. It will also work closely with the other working structures – both supporting and building on their work.
Contribution to enhancing mobility	By providing objective information on all policy commitments, the working group will help effective actions to be taken to enhance mobility.
Correlation with initiatives outside the Bologna Process	This may develop through the work period, but is not a particular objective of the working group.
Reporting	The BFUG will be informed at each meeting of developments in the working group. The BFUG will be asked to approve the overall conception of the report, and also the proposed content and indicators.
Dissemination and enhancing knowledge sharing	The working group will be ready to disseminate information about the BPIR and also information about previous reports wherever requested around the EHEA.
Tackling transversal topics	Transversal topics will be considered in the content development phase of the work.

## Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Fundamental Values, 2024-2027

Name of the working structure	Working Group on Fundamental Values
Work period	2024-2027
Co-chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malta – Rose Anne Cuschieri</li> <li>• Romania – Mihai Cezar Hâj</li> </ul>
Composition	Austria, EUA, Council of Europe, Croatia, Education International – ETUCE, European Commission, ESU, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, United Kingdom
Reference to the Tirana Communiqué	<p><i>Fundamental values</i></p> <p><i>Higher education can only fully develop its missions when its fundamental values are respected. While they are now more threatened than they were a decade or even four years ago, we reaffirm our commitment to protect, promote, and uphold academic freedom, as defined in the Rome Communiqué. In addition, we commit to upholding, promoting, and protecting the following values:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>We understand academic integrity as a set of behaviours and attitudes in the academic community internalising and furthering compliance with ethical and professional principles and standards in learning, teaching, research, governance, outreach, and any other tasks related to the missions of higher education.</i></li> <li>• <i>We further understand institutional autonomy as the will and ability of higher education institutions to fulfil their missions without undue interference and to set and implement their own priorities and policies concerning organisation, finance, staffing and academic affairs.</i></li> <li>• <i>Participation of students and staff in higher education governance encompasses their right to organise autonomously, in accordance with the principle of partnership and collegiality, without pressure or undue interference; to elect and be elected in open, free and fair elections; have their views represented and taken into account; initiate and participate in all debates and decision-making in all governing bodies; and, through their representative organisations, be duly involved in issues concerning the governance and further development of the relevant higher education institutions and system.</i></li> <li>• <i>Public responsibility for higher education denotes a set of duties, mainly exercised at the level of the national higher education system, which public authorities must fulfil as part of their overall</i></li> </ul>

	<p><i>responsibility for the education sector and society as a whole.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Public responsibility of higher education denotes the obligations of the higher education community to the broader society of which the higher education community is a part.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>We adopt the statements on the fundamental values annexed to this Communiqué. While each value is essential, all six of them need to be implemented as a coherent whole. <b>As a reliable monitoring of their implementation within all our education systems is required, we welcome the work on creating a technical monitoring framework, and we ask the BFUG to report back to us at our 2027 Ministerial Conference.</b></i></p>
Main goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize the development of a comprehensive framework and indicators to further the monitoring and implementation of the fundamental values of the EHEA based on the work done in the previous Fundamental Values Working Group and supporting project.</li> <li>• Coordinate the first round of implementation and report back to the BFUG</li> <li>• Coordinate the knowledge sharing and promotion of the fundamental values in order to raise awareness on the common understanding within the EHEA members</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive framework and monitoring tool with indicators presented to the BFUG.</li> <li>• An implementation report based on the first round of monitoring</li> <li>• report on events and actions implemented regarding the knowledge sharing activities</li> </ul>
Specific tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise and adopt the proposals on the framework and monitoring tool for fundamental values and propose and submit it to the BFUG</li> <li>• Coordinate the process of implementation for the first round of monitoring</li> <li>• Participate at the meetings of the various BFUG structures to ensure common understanding and approach regarding the fundamental values</li> <li>• Organize knowledge sharing events.</li> <li>• contribute to the development of different outputs aimed at sharing the common understanding regarding the fundamental values.</li> </ul>
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 meetings (face-to-face)</li> </ul>
Liaison with other	

working structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A representative of the working group on Monitoring should be a member of the working group, preferably one of the co-chairs of WG1, to establish a link between the work done in the two groups.</li> <li>• Liaison with TPG on Quality Assurance, TPG on Social Dimension on the common topics.</li> </ul>
Contribution to enhancing mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work under this working group contributes indirectly to enhancing mobility</li> </ul>
Correlation with initiatives outside the Bologna Process	<p>The work of this working group correlates with the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the work within the European Research Area on freedom of research</li> <li>• the work within the European Commission/ European Education Area on “<i>academic fundamental values</i>”</li> <li>• the work within the Council of Europe (CoE) on values (ETINED platform, academic freedom etc.)</li> </ul>
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular progress report will be given to the BFUG.</li> <li>• The framework and monitoring tool should be validated by the BFUG.</li> <li>• A final report on the implementation of the framework and monitoring tool will be presented to the BFUG.</li> <li>• Minutes of working group meetings will be made available by the Bologna Secretariat.</li> </ul>
Dissemination and enhancing knowledge sharing	
Tackling transversal topics	<p>The work under this working group might tackle transversal topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digitalisation &amp; AI</li> <li>• learning and teaching</li> </ul>

## Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Internationalisation and Mobility, 2024-2027

Name of the working structure	Working Group on Internationalisation and Mobility
Work period	2024-2027
Co-chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Germany</li> <li>• Moldova</li> <li>• Arthur Belle – Netherlands (<a href="mailto:p.belle@minocw.nl">p.belle@minocw.nl</a>)</li> <li>• Ukraine</li> </ul>
Composition	Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium – Flemish Community, BusinessEurope, Croatia, Czech Republic, Education International – ETUCE, ENQA, Estonia, European Commission, EUA, ESU, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom – Scotland, UNESCO
Reference to the Tirana Communiqué	<p><b>‘We reaffirm our commitment to enabling all learners to acquire international and intercultural competencies, and we will reinforce our efforts to identify and remove barriers and promote physical mobility, also in order to achieve the benchmark of at least 20% of mobile students. We mandate the BFUG to prepare an action plan to stimulate mobility and internationalisation of higher education and to support measures for achieving a greener, more inclusive, and more balanced mobility’.</b></p> <p>‘We will support higher education institutions in their exploration of practices and benefits of blended mobility and virtual exchanges, and in fostering the internationalisation of the curricula. We commit to supporting transnational cooperation, including for joint programmes and joint degrees, through better implementation of the key commitments and by removing undue administrative and legal barriers’</p>
Main goals	<p>To develop an EHEA action plan on Internationalisation and Mobility that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Supports the EHEA members in developing and implementing internationalisation policies that enable all learners to acquire international and intercultural competencies.</li> <li>➤ Fosters a discussion of EHEA mobility targets in light of greatly varying mobility numbers in different states. Identification of barriers to mobility and recommendations for their removal.</li> <li>➤ Operationalizes how member countries can develop policies that collectively strive for 1) more inclusive, 2) more balanced, and 3) more sustainable mobility’.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Facilitates an exchange of views of EHEA member countries' broad internationalisation strategies and priorities, including internationalisation@home (blended mobility, virtual exchanges, the internationalisation of the curricula, international classroom).</li> </ul>
Outcomes	EHEA action plan for mobility and internationalisation to be approved by BFUG and adopted by the ministerial conference in 2027.
Specific tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Organise expert hearings and peer-learning activities on internationalisation and mobility strategies (also in context of transversal topics like inclusivity, sustainability, competitiveness) and other relevant reports from different EHEA member states.</li> <li>➤ On the basis of consultation with academic experts and relevant stakeholder organisations, identify barriers to mobility and outline recommendations for their removal.</li> </ul>
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Regular WG meetings once per semester; ideally in connection with peer-learning activities/expert hearings on the day before the actual WG meeting.</li> <li>➤ Additional drafting meetings for the EHEA action plan for mobility and internationalisation shall be held twice per semester and start in the second half of 2025 with a first complete draft version to be presented to the BFUG by mid-2026.</li> </ul>
Liaison with other working structures	<p>Liaise with the Thematic Peer Groups with links to mobility and internationalisation, most notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPG B (regarding recognition of periods abroad);</li> <li>• TPG C (on allowing more flexible programs); and</li> <li>• TPG D (to make internationalisation more inclusive).</li> </ul>
Contribution to enhancing mobility	This WG is the main structure to provide policy recommendations to enhance mobility, while making sure we strive for 1) more inclusive, 2) more balanced, and 3) more sustainable mobility.
Correlation with initiatives outside the Bologna Process	The aims of this WG will be closely aligned to the EU initiative 'Europe on the Move' and the broader Erasmus+ funding for mobility opportunities across Europe. This WG will work closely with the Commission to guarantee the complementarity of our work.
Reporting	Minutes of working group meetings will be made available by the Bologna Secretariat. The BFUG will receive regular reports and updates which requires the presence of at least one of the Co-Chairs at the BFUG meetings. A final report will be presented to the BFUG and to the EHEA ministerial meeting in 2027. The EHEA action plan for mobility and internationalisation as the central output of the working group shall be subject to approval by the BFUG. A first draft version shall be presented to the BFUG by summer/autumn

	2026 with a finalized version being approved by spring 2027 before the EHEA ministerial conference.
Dissemination and enhancing knowledge sharing	WG output like the action plan could be launched – once adopted – during a public (online) event.
Tackling transversal topics	Focus on development of academic mobility in the context of issues such as inclusivity, sustainability and competitiveness. Internationalisation@Home can help reduce the environmental impact of academic mobility. They also open up new opportunities for access to education and research. Nevertheless, physical encounters are indispensable in certain constellations. The advantages and disadvantages of different internationalisation strategies must therefore be carefully assessed.

## Draft Terms of Reference for the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue, 2024-2027

Name of the working structure	Coordination Group on the Global Policy Dialogue
Work period	2024-2027
Co-chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Italy – Elisa Petrucci</li> <li>• Republic of Moldova – Nina Putuntean</li> <li>• UNESCO – TBC (temporary Vanja Gutovic, Programme Specialist)</li> </ul>
Composition	Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, EUA, Education International – ETUCE, ENQA, EURASHE, European Commission, ESU, France, Germany, Holy See, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Slovakia, UNESCO
Reference to the Tirana Communiqué	<p><i>We ask the BFUG and its working structures to continue to develop and strengthen dialogue and collaboration with macro regions on various levels and with appropriate interlocutors.</i></p> <p><i>This includes reciprocal referencing of qualifications frameworks and credit systems, ratification and implementation of the UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education, as well as the second-generation regional recognition conventions, and alignment and mutual understanding of quality assurance principles.</i></p>
Main goals	<p>Goals to be achieved by the working structure in relation to the Tirana commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure dialogue, enhance cooperation and transparency and consolidate trust between EHEA and other countries, organizations and macro-regions;</li> <li>• Contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, notably SDG 4.3;</li> <li>• Support the alignment of tools for recognition and mutual understanding of quality assurance principles and ethical principles and values of international academic cooperation.</li> <li>• Raise awareness on the UNESCO recognition conventions and their potential for creating synergies among regions.</li> <li>• Contribute to the World Higher Education Conference III road-map implementation</li> <li>• Identify the themes where synergies can be found between regions, and with global organizations, be it at the intergovernmental level, or in transnational exchange and collaboration between higher education institutions and organisations</li> <li>• Supporting the organisation of the 2027 Global Policy Forum and organising other events, where possible and appropriate</li> </ul>

Outcomes	<p>The main expected outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft of the Global Policy Forum Statement Chişinău 2027</li> <li>• Enhanced coordination with interregional instruments and projects dealing with HE policies</li> <li>• Strengthened interregional cooperation between EHEA and other macro-regions</li> <li>• Topic specific recommendations from the open meetings with stakeholders</li> <li>• Increased participation of international partners in the 2027 Global Policy Forum</li> </ul>
Specific tasks	<p>Tasks that the CG GPD will implement:</p> <p>During the first CG GPD meeting, the group will map a list of stakeholders at regional level, including stakeholders with a specific remit (e.g. recognition, quality assurance, internationalisation).</p> <p>The identified stakeholders will be invited at further CG GPD meetings, based on the agreed calendar.</p> <p>Representatives of other BFUG working structures will be invited to CG GPD meetings, based on the topic of discussion and as relevant.</p> <p>Development of an action plan/roadmap for transnational cooperation in higher education - looking beyond 2030</p> <p>Enhance cooperation between higher education institutions within and beyond EHEA</p>
Meetings	<p>There will be at least two CG GPD meetings per year (one meeting/6 months).</p> <p>On a rotation basis, one CG GPD meeting should include only members of the group, while the next should include stakeholders and focus on debating one or more selected topics. Each year there should be a maximum of three topics discussed, from issues of common interest such as key commitments, microcredentials, use of learning outcomes, quality assurance, lifelong learning, internationalisation, right to education/social dimension, article VII of the Lisbon Recognition Convention, values and guiding principles, digitalisation and AI implications, crosscut by major challenges as student population decline, fast-changing market demand, social differences and rising costs of studying</p>
Liaison with other working structures	<p>Cooperation is foreseen, with the TPGs working on the key commitments (A, B, C), the Working Group on Internationalisation and Mobility and any other BFUG working structure as appropriate.</p>
Contribution to enhancing mobility	<p>Through enhanced global cooperation, EHEA member states improve their knowledge and enhance their trust in relation of other HE systems, thus increasing international cooperation and mobility.</p>

	Common work on technical tools in the area of key commitments increases comparability and compatibility of higher education systems, enabling learners to study cross-border and institutions/faculties to expand exchanges and collaboration.
Correlation with initiatives outside the Bologna Process	Synergy with the EU initiatives (Europe on the Move, Global Gateway, Skills and Talent Mobility Package, Higher Education Package), UNESCO's Campus Africa, The Global Convention on Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education Work Plans and other relevant interregional initiatives, ASEAN Roadmap 2025 ENLACES initiative.
Reporting	<p>The minutes are provided after each CG GPD meeting by the EHEA Secretariat.</p> <p>The CG GPD will report at each BFUG Board and BFUG meetings on the progress of their work.</p> <p>The first draft of the Global Policy Forum Statement is submitted one year before the Ministerial Conference.</p>
Dissemination and enhancing knowledge sharing	Main outcomes and results will be made available to the public on the EHEA website and shared with interested stakeholders.
Tackling transversal topics	<p>Digitalisation &amp; AI could be tackled within discussions on recognition, QA etc. This includes digital credentialling, interoperability, data architecture and others. The CG GPD, with the support of the Secretariat, aims to observe developments in other world regions and to exchange with stakeholders on potential synergies in this field.</p> <p>Contributing to SDG 4.3, including advocacy and monitoring of progress</p>

## Draft Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Future of Bologna, 2024-2027

Name of the working structure	Task Force on Future of Bologna
Work period	2024-2027
Co-chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belgium - Flemish Community: Liesbeth Hens</li> <li>• Germany: Lea Kröger/ Andrea Herdegen</li> <li>• Ireland: Orla Lynch/ Stephanie</li> <li>• Ukraine: Maryna Mruga</li> </ul>
Composition	Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium – Flemish Community, Croatia, EUA, Education International – ETUCE, EURASHE, ESU, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom - Scotland
Reference to the Tirana Communiqué	<i>'We also ask the BFUG to submit to us in 2027 proposals for the main priorities for the next decade, in close cooperation with higher education institutions, staff and students.'</i>
Main goals	<p>To take up the mandate of the Tirana communique to:</p> <p>Future-proof the work of BFUG and in so doing improve the attractiveness and relevance of the EHEA, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identifying the main priorities for the next decade, in close cooperation with higher education institutions, staff and students, in response to ongoing change, due to societal, economic, geopolitical, environmental and technological developments;</li> <li>- exploring new methodologies and ways of working for BFUG;</li> <li>- Improve the potential for the success and impact of the Bologna process</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<p>Advice on the priorities and methodologies for BFUG up to 2040</p> <p>Opening up and testing new methodologies in the EHEA</p> <p>Lay the ground for future-proofing the BFUG and the Bologna process by fostering debate and dialogue on priorities</p>
Specific tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Summarise the outcomes of previous efforts successes and challenges</li> <li>2. To pilot new working methods at the BFUG meetings, using emerging topics mentioned in the Tirana Communiqué: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LLL – shorter programmes etc.;</li> <li>• AI and digitalisation;</li> <li>• intensifying the international connectedness of higher education in deglobalizing world;</li> <li>• climate change.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>Agree a schedule to bring these themes into successive BFUG meetings for dialogue (1 theme per meeting).</p> <p>Engage the Board and other groups to test and strengthen the evidence base for the priorities and the methodologies. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a survey of groups and members of priority areas and good methodological practices;</li> <li>○ providing a briefing paper on future priorities for use and feedback;</li> <li>○ explore new ways of working in the BFUG that can enable the process to be more responsive and more evenly implemented;</li> <li>○ offering future-friendly practices/work methodologies for the Board and groups to test;</li> <li>○ engage experts/speakers on the cross-cutting themes who can engage with and provide insights to the BFUG and, potentially, the other working groups.</li> </ul>
Meetings	TBC with wider group, but the expectations are one or two meetings per semester, one prior to the BFUG meeting and one after the BFUG meeting.
Liaison with other working structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Surveys working with co-chairs and the Board to bring priority themes and new methodologies into their work programmes and to feedback on how effective they are;</li> <li>- Liaison with the TF long term secretariat on working methods, task division, etc</li> </ul>
Contribution to enhancing mobility	
Correlation with initiatives outside the Bologna Process	
Reporting	We ask for a working session on all BFUG meetings in the working period.
Dissemination and enhancing knowledge sharing	
Tackling transversal topics	

## Draft Terms of Reference for the Task Force on establishing a long-term Secretariat, 2024-2027

Name of the working structure	Task Force on establishing a long-term Secretariat
Work period	2024-2027
Co-chairs	Czech Republic – Michal Karpíšek EUA – Michael Gaebel
Composition	<p>The BFUG should ensure that the TF has a manageable size (approximately 12 participants, including the co-chairs) and diverse and representative participation, in terms of geography and systems.</p> <p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• should be ready to contribute proactively, regularly and constructively to the work, including drafting and revising texts etc.</li> <li>• should not exclude any constructively critical voices, as long as they respect the decision by Ministers in the Tirana Communiqué. The TF’s task is not to decide whether a Long-term Secretariat should be established, but to prepare tangible and feasible solutions in consideration of governance, organisation and management, finance, legal forms. The ultimate decision on the Secretariat is for the BFUG respectively the Ministers.</li> <li>• Parties who have an interest in hosting the Secretariat are welcome to join the TF. As the TF will operate in openness and fairness, and all decisions will be made by the BFUG, respectively the Ministers, a keen interest in the issue should not be seen as a conflict of interest, but on the contrary, would help to develop concrete and feasible ideas and approaches, and recognise challenges at an early stage. Representatives of such parties should not co-chair the TF and would be exempted from any activity related to the evaluation and preselection of proposals for hosts.</li> <li>• The party which the BFUG selects as a host for the Secretariat, if not yet part of the TF, would have to join it, in order to contribute proactively to the development of the approach.</li> </ul> <p>The composition of the TF is: Czech Republic, EUA, EQAR, European Commission, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Romania, San Marino, Türkiye.</p>
Reference to the Tirana Communiqué	<p><i>In view of the long-term character of the EHEA, we consider that firmer structural arrangements are now necessary to ensure its consistent, stable development.</i></p> <p><i>We, therefore:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>adopt the “Rules of Procedure for the EHEA” and invite the BFUG to adopt revised Rules of procedure of for its own work in due course;</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mandate the BFUG to continue working on the possibility of establishing a long-term, independent, internationally staffed Secretariat to create effective support for the BFUG, and to evaluate the feasibility and sustainability of the related proposals, models, and terms of reference in Spring 2026, to be presented for adoption and implementation at our 2027 Ministerial Conference;</li> <li>agree to undertake an assessment of the chosen arrangement after two work periods.</li> </ul>
Goals and outcomes	<p>The TF builds on the results and outcomes of the Task Force on the Rules of Procedure to prepare the establishment of a Long-term Secretariat, in particular on the <a href="#">Revised concept note: Long-term EHEA Secretariat</a> (BFUG Brussels 19-20 February 2024) and the document proposed as an <a href="#">Annex to the Communiqué: Long-term EHEA Secretariat. Principles and Roadmap</a> (BFUG Brussels 9-10 April 2024). It supports and facilitates the process of the introduction of the Long-term Secretariat. It further develops the concept, interacts with potential hosts of the Secretariat, and provides the BFUG with relevant information for its decisions.</p>
Specific tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop further the proposals for the establishment of a long-term, independent, and internationally staffed Secretariat for the EHEA, in particular regarding governance and funding.</li> <li>Prepare a call for proposals for hosting countries/organisations, to be endorsed by the BFUG, and disseminated by the Secretariat.</li> <li>Organise the evaluation of applications, including the assessment of the regulations and conditions of applicant countries/organisations.</li> <li>Provide a reasoned proposal for the arrangements and terms of reference for the Long-term Secretariat, with a proposal for the hosting country/organisation, to the BFUG.</li> <li>Prepare discussion and decision-making process at the BFUG, for a decision on the Long-term Secretariat (tentatively spring 2026).</li> <li>In case it is decided to establish a Long-term Secretariat, following the indications of the BFUG, propose its draft statutes by autumn 2026, for discussion and endorsement by the BFUG (tentatively autumn 2026).</li> <li>Advise the BFUG on the further preparation of the new Secretariat, including the job description for the head of Secretariat (tentatively autumn 2026).</li> <li>To the extent required as a consequence of the decision to establish a Long-term Secretariat, propose amendments to the Rules of Procedures for the EHEA and/or the Rules of Procedure for the BFUG (to be adopted by Ministers, respectively the BFUG)</li> </ol>
Meetings	<p>The TF should organize its work so as to meet the deadlines specified above, and in accordance with the meeting schedule of the BFUG and its Board. The number of physical meetings may be limited to 2-3 per year, organised also in conjunction with BFUG meetings, with an</p>

	additional 6-8 online meetings of shorter duration. It may be necessary that representatives of the TF travel to countries offering to host the secretariat in order to discuss and better understand the conditions and circumstances.
Liaison with other working structures	The TF would liaise with the Co-Chairs of other Working Groups as required.
Contribution to enhancing mobility	/
Correlation with initiatives outside the Bologna Process	/
Reporting	The TF should report to the BFUG and its Board in accordance with the schedule of their meetings. The reports should focus on the progress of and proposals for the specific tasks outlined above.
Dissemination and enhancing knowledge sharing	/
Tackling transversal topics	/

## Draft Terms of Reference for the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group, 2024-2027

Name of the working structure	Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)
Work period	2024-2027
Co-chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finland: Maija Innola</li> <li>• Bulgaria: Ivana Radonova</li> <li>• EUA: Maria Kelo</li> </ul>
Composition	<p>The Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG) is a small coordination group composed of representatives nominated by members and consultative members of the BFUG and the co-chairs of each of the Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs). A representative of the WG on Monitoring is invited to participate in the group as an observer.</p> <p>The group is composed of the following members: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, EUA, European Commission, ESU, Finland, France, Georgia, and the TPG co-chairs (with usually only one co-chair of each TPG attending the meeting of the BICG).</p> <p>In principle, the BICG co-chairs should not be chairs of a Thematic Peer Group.</p> <p>The BICG should represent the diversity of the EHEA and ensure a balance of expertise across all key commitments. To ensure continuity and diversity, there should be a maximum turnover of two thirds of the BICG members from one work-period to the other.</p>
Reference to the Tirana Communiqué	<p><i>"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."</i></p> <p><i>"As the Bologna Process tools have developed throughout the last decade, we mandate the BFUG to work on their future-proof development, dissemination and possible expansion"</i></p> <p><i>"The adoption of the Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA in the 2020 Rome Communiqué was an important step in this direction, but more is needed to ensure their implementation by 2030. We commit to measuring progress in their implementation and ask the BFUG to report back on this in 2027."</i></p>

<p>Main goals</p>	<p>The purpose of the BICG is to facilitate a coordinated implementation of the four identified topics: the three key commitments of the Paris communique' (ECTS and QFs; recognition; and quality assurance) as well as of social dimension of higher education. To achieve that, the BICG coordinates the work of the TPGs, and facilitates an exchange of experience and best practice between the TPGs. The BICG follows the peer support activities and reports to the BFUG and the BFUG Board on overall progress and any necessary revision of the peer support approach or methodology.</p> <p>The activities should build upon the countries action plans, the work and the results/achievements of the BICG in the period 2021 to 2024 and the outcomes of and recommendations for the work of the TPGs presented in the BICG Report 2024.</p>
<p>Outcomes</p>	<p>The BICG will deliver reports to the BFUG and the BFUG Board at least once a year. It will also provide input for the BFUG discussions about implementation and, at the end of the working cycle, any necessary revision of the peer support scope, approach or methodology.</p> <p>The BICG will deliver a draft template for national action plans for discussions, feedback and adoption by the BFUG. The draft will be provided by 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and consultation with the BFUG will be completed in written procedure by 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024.</p>
<p>Specific tasks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate the work of the TPGs;</li> <li>• Follow-up peer support activities by keeping an overview of the composition and activities of the different groups;</li> <li>• Seek to improve the Peer Support Approach for the implementation of the Key Commitments and of social dimension, including possible adjustments; Identify synergies in the work of the Thematic Peer Groups and ensure consistence and coherence of outcomes</li> <li>• Give the BFUG regular updates and an overview on the progress and effectiveness of the Peer Support Approach, based on the activities of the TPGs;</li> <li>• Prepare reports to the BFUG on the activities of the different TPGs, including operation (what works, what doesn't work), impact and usefulness;</li> <li>• Prepare recommendations for further actions to improve the implementation for consideration by the BFUG;</li> <li>• Prepare a template, for approval by the BFUG, for the national action plans regarding implementation of the</li> </ul>

	Tirana commitments, with focus on the four TPG topics;
Meetings	Two meetings per year will be held, ideally three weeks prior to the BFUG Board meetings. Meetings can be physical or online, taking into account the availability of the BICG members. Physical meetings can be one or one and a half day and could also be held in combination with other meetings (BFUG or TPG).
Liaison with other working structures	In addition to the TPGs and the BFUG and the Board, the BICG will specifically liaise and search synergies with the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WG on Monitoring</li> <li>- AG on Future of the Bologna Process</li> <li>- WG on Mobility and internationalisation</li> <li>- CG on Global Policy Dialogue</li> <li>- any other relevant BFUG working structures</li> </ul>
Contribution to enhancing mobility	The work of the BICG will have an indirect but very important contribution to enhancing mobility but supporting the correct and thorough implementation of reform agendas that are enablers of mobility. The BICG will also liaise with the WG on Mobility and internationalisation
Correlation with initiatives outside the Bologna Process	The key commitments and the social dimension have strong connections to EU policies within the EEA, and their implementation will be an important precondition for the fruitful achievement of the EEA objectives. Global Dialogue has traditionally focused strongly on a number of the key commitments, as issues related to recognition, quality assurance and balanced mobility flows are high on the regional agendas across the Globe.
Reporting	Minimum of yearly reporting to the BFUG and final reporting containing reflections on the success of the methodology of peer learning for implementation purposes of the four topic areas, with particular attention to the TPG D on Social Dimension as the newest TPG.
Dissemination and enhancing knowledge sharing	The task of the BICG is to coordinate a comprehensive system of peer support activities divided into the four TPGs. BICG will also support the sharing of good practices and methodologies for peer learning between the groups.
Tackling transversal topics	The work of the BICG will take into consideration and feed back into the discussions on transversal topics

Additional remarks  
on TPGs

### **Additional remarks on the Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs)**

The objective of the TPGs is to provide a forum to support countries in working together to implement the Key Commitments and reforms related to the social dimension of higher education. The TPGs should continue using the Peer Support Approach and build on the work accomplished during the previous work period.

Each TPG (with the exception of the TPG D on social dimension, which is to start its work only in this working period) should follow up and update its overall Action Plan to reflect countries' progress and developments. The BICG provides feedback to the Action Plans of the TPGs and the TPG regularly report their activities to the BICG. Each participating country should prepare, update and follow their own Country Work Plan, coordinated with the TPG's Action Plan and objectives, in line with the National Action Plan mandated by the Tirana Communiqué.

The countries and organisations should nominate representatives of authorities and stakeholders with relevant responsibility and expertise in the topic for the duration of the entire work period. Country representatives in the different TPGs need to communicate to and collaborate with their BFUG representatives at national level to ensure consistency and impact.

The co-chairs of the TPGs should be appointed by the BFUG and are responsible for planning, coordinating and reporting on the activities of the TPGs to the BICG.

There should be up to three co-chairs per TPG, respecting also a principle that one country representative should not co-chair more than one TPG or the BICG.

The TPGs' co-chairs:

TPG A: France, Georgia, Latvia

TPG B: France, Italy, Ukraine

TPG C: Armenia, France, Romania

TPG D: ESU, Latvia, Malta

## **Template – National action plan 2024-2027**

## General information

### Introduction and scope of the national action plans

With the Paris Communiqué, "a structured peer support approach based on solidarity, cooperation and mutual learning" was adopted. In the work programme of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) for 2018-2020, peer support focussing on completing the implementation of three key commitments was included through thematic peer groups (TPG). As a follow-up of the Tirana Communiqué, an additional TPG on the social dimension of higher education was added, in order to address and ensure the implementation of the principles and guidelines for the social dimension as adopted in the Rome Ministerial Conference.

In order to ensure a cohesive and consistent approach to a strategic and well-thought through action plan for the implementation of the key commitments, as well as other commitments of the Bologna Process, countries are asked to prepare a national action plan for the implementation of the Bologna Process commitments in the current working period 2024-2027.

National action plans must address the implementation of the key commitments, and additionally should consider other Bologna commitments, as agreed to within Ministerial Communiqués, which need to be further implemented by the member state concerned (social dimension, fundamental values, learning and teaching including student-centred learning, internationalisation and mobility, digitalisation etc), as well as knowledge sharing activities

### How to fill in the action plans and their use for the 2024-2027 working period

The national action plans should cover topics related to the implementation of the key commitments, of the social dimension of higher education as well as other reforms that are planned in the national context for (better or more complete) implementation of the Bologna process commitments. In particular, countries are encouraged to include topics that have been identified as not entirely implemented in the Bologna Process Implementation Report 2024.

The national action plans can and should be prepared involving relevant stakeholders, bodies, and institutions in the national context, such as QA agencies, ENIC-NARIC offices, internationalisation and mobility offices, national students' union(s), national rectors' conferences, and the like, as appropriate and relevant for each topic. The BFUG representatives of each country should ensure that the submitted template is coherent and that the summary points provided at the start of the country action plan cover the key topics clearly and comprehensively.

The BFUG members may update and supplement their national action plans as necessary by submitting an updated version to the BICG.

### Monitoring/outcomes

The country action plans sections for the four topics covered by the four TPG will feed into each TPG work plan for the period, and their achievement will be monitored – and supported – within the framework of the TPGs.

Each country should create a structured mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the national action plan, according to their national context. The mechanism should engage the stakeholders consulted for the creation of the national action plan.

\*Country name\*

**Please identify here for your country the current situation and challenges (if relevant) in the respective key commitments. In addition, you may list other commitments of the Tirana or previous communiqués and your priorities in their implementation.**

	Current situation	Key challenges
<b>ECTS and Qualifications Frameworks</b>		
<b>Recognition</b>		
<b>Quality Assurance</b>		
<b>Social Dimension of HE</b>		
<b>Other Bologna Process Commitments</b>		

**Please summarise here (in a few bullet points) the main progress to be achieved by 2027 in your country, based on the detailed action plans below, including issues such as key regulatory changes or significant new policies foreseen to support the implementation of the Bologna Process commitments.**

Please list in the bellow table the concrete actions you want to undertake to achieve the commitments and how you want to tackle the challenge you have mentioned above (e.g. regulatory/legal change, data collection and analysis, (national) peer support, events, publication of support materials, ...)

Please use a separate table for each of the listed (key) commitments and add lines to the tables as needed.

1) ECTS and Qualifications frameworks

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved in 2027 (Yes/No/Partially) [to be filled in 2027]	Provide short explanation [to be filled in 2027]

## 2) Recognition

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved in 2027 (Yes/No/Partially) [to be filled in 2027]	Provide short explanation [to be filled in 2027]

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### 3) Quality assurance

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the (key) commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved by 2027 (Yes/No/Partially) [to be filled in 2027]	Provide short explanation [to be filled in 2027]


**4) Social dimension**

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the (key) commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved by 2027 (Yes/No/Partially) [to be filled in 2027]	Provide short explanation [to be filled in 2027]
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5) Other Bologna Process commitments

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the (key) commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved by 2027 (Yes/No/Partially) [to be filled in 2027]	Provide short explanation [to be filled in 2027]

## Template – TPG Action Plans

### Timeframe – TPG activity

Activity	Participants	Outcomes	Key commitment	Project	Time
<b>Please list here the activities of the Peer Group (e.g. surveys, self-assessment, peer assessment, analysis, workshops, conferences, ...)</b>	<i>Please list here the invited participating countries and institutions</i>	<i>Please write down the activity outcome (e.g. survey analysis, reports, workshop conclusions, conference booklet...).</i>	<i>Please explain here shortly the contribution of the activity to the implementation of the key commitment in one or several countries, if applicable.</i>	<i>Please name here the project supporting the activity, if the case</i>	<i>Please write down the envisaged time frame for the implementation of the activity.</i>
<b>TPG meetings</b>					
<b>Staff mobilities</b>					
<b>Peer Learning Activities</b>					

### National actions

Action	Related key commitment	Outcomes	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the key commitment	Timeline	Supporting project? If yes, which one	Partner(s) from the own country	Partners from the Peer group	Achieved by 2027 (Yes/No/Partially) [to be filled in 2027]	Provide short explanation [to be filled in 2027]


## Composition of the Peer Group

**Peer group**

**Timeframe**

**Co-chairs**

**Participating  
countries and  
institutions**

**Umbrella project(s)**

**Other supporting  
project(s)**



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