

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"> • Germany • Moldova • Arthur Belle – Netherlands (p.belle@minocw.nl) • Ukraine
Composition	Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium – Flemish Community, BusinessEurope, Croatia, Czech Republic, Education International – ETUCE, ENQA, Estonia, European Commission, EUA, EURASHE, 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>‘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’.</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"> ➤ Supports the EHEA members in developing and implementing internationalisation policies that enable all learners to acquire international and intercultural competencies. ➤ 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Operationalizes how member countries can develop policies that collectively strive for 1) more inclusive, 2) more balanced, and 3) more sustainable mobility’. ➤ Facilitates an exchange of views of EHEA member countries’ broad internationalisation strategies and priorities, including internationalisation@home (e.g. blended mobility, virtual exchanges, the internationalisation of the curricula, international classroom).
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"> ➤ 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. ➤ On the basis of consultation with academic experts and relevant stakeholder organisations, identify barriers to mobility and outline recommendations for their removal.
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regular WG meetings once per semester; ideally in connection with peer-learning activities/expert hearings on the day before the actual WG meeting. ➤ 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.
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"> • TPG B (regarding recognition of periods abroad); • TPG C (on allowing more flexible programs); and • TPG D (to make internationalisation more inclusive).
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 EHEA 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

	<p>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.</p>
<p>Dissemination and enhancing knowledge sharing</p>	<p>WG output like the action plan could be launched – once adopted – during a public (online) event.</p>
<p>Tackling transversal topics</p>	<p>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.</p>