

Romanian application for hosting the EHEA Secretariat

22 October 2025

Why submitting the application?

- Romania signed the Bologna Declaration in 1999
- Member and co-chair in BFUG working groups and task forces
- Hosted the Secretariat in 2010-2012 and co-hosts EHEA Secretariat jointly with Republic of Moldova (2024-2027)
- Organising ministerial conferences in 2012 (Bucharest) and the future (**Iași and Chisinau**) on **26-27 May 2027**

Fully compliant with the principles adopted by the BFUG

- the long-term Secretariat - **private non-governmental, non-profit association** under the *Governmental Ordinance no. 26/2000 on associations and foundations*
- **independence** from political or administrative interference;
- strict non-profit operation and **accountability** requirements.
- **Sustainability**
- Fiscal, operational and contractual **flexibility**;
- **In kind contributions from the Ministry**

Strenghts

- **Minimum three members**
- **Swift administrative procedure** for judicial approval – ‘simplified procedure’ within 90 days
- **Insignificant initial minimum capital** (50 euros)
- **Statutes signed by founding members anywhere**, no need to come to Romania, no formality by law (simple signing of the Statutes – no notary or lawyers required by law)
- **No conditions on who can be members** (foreign members)
- **higher education institution supports the founding** (act as founder together with other BFUG members) to **simple procedures** (the ministry would require a legal approval to act as founder)

Independence

- **own legal personality;**
- **full legal, financial, operational independence**
 - **Full independence from the Ministry** – Ministry of Romania would join as member and have the same decision-making power as any other BFUG member in the General assembly
 - **Full independence from the higher education institution host** – the host would be an observer in the General assembly
- **Modern, inclusive, extremely flexible law on association's functioning - fully compatible with EHEA governance**

Accountability

- Governed by the **General Assembly** -composed of the **BFUG members**
- **Full accountability to the BFUG**, which would act as the General Assembly and be the ultimate decision-maker
- **Board is necessary** – either BFUG Board or a new structure; however, the **powers of such body are established by Statute**
- **Founders have no special rights** (equal status for BFUG members which might join later)
- Appointment of the **Head of Secretariat** by the General Assembly
- Romania already **hosted two EHEA Secretariat** which acted with **no interference from the Romanian authorities**

Sustainability

- An association with ministries as members **already worked** (EQAR model-RO is member of EQAR)
- Contributions paid as **membership fees** by BFUG members to a **legal entity which they are part of** (EQAR model)
- **Meetings online or anywhere in Europe** – no legal limit

Staff

- **Flexible arrangements** regarding type of contracts, autonomy regarding profiles, good social protection – as a private entity,
- The Ministry commits to **support** the association in the **visa applications and work permits** for non-EU staff members

In kind contribution

- **Location** –at a university in Bucharest
- Receiving the **headquarter rent-free and covering the utilities through the higher education institution**
- Possibility to use the HEI's IT infrastructure
- Use of university premises for conferences, workshops if needed

Why EHEA Secretariat in Romania

- **Schengen country**, accessible (direct flights to 34 EHEA countries), very safe
- **Bridge** between Western and Eastern Europe
- **Low cost of living**
- **High political will**
- **Strong political commitment**
- **Previous experience in administrative matters of the Secretariat** and other associations (Black Sea University Network)
- **Strong engagement of Romania** in the EHEA and protection of Fundamental Values



Thank you!