

Minutes of the
1st Thematic Peer Group B on Recognition meeting
20th February 2025
Centro Congressi Roma Eventi, Via Alibert 5a – 00187, Rome

List of participants

Nr.	NAME	COUNTRY/Organisation
1.	Entela Haloci	Albania
2.	Mar Martínez Ramírez	Andorra
3.	Karin Giese	Austria
4.	Dragana Dilber	Bosnia and Herzegovina
5.	Mirta Mandić Martinović	Bosnia and Herzegovina
6.	Dženan Omanović	Bosnia and Herzegovina
7.	Kostadin Tonev	Bulgaria
8.	Marina Crnčić Sokol	Croatia
9.	Jakub Onderka	Czech Republic
10.	Allan Bruun Pedersen	Denmark
11.	Jingchao Shi	Co-chair, France
12.	Salome Abramishvili	Georgia
13.	Tim Maschuw	Germany
14.	Vasileios Charalampopoulos	Greece
15.	Ioannis Katsanevakis	Greece
16.	Asia Fiorentino	Holy See
17.	Melanie Rosenbaum	Holy See
18.	Julia Juhasz	Hungary
19.	Gábor Mészáros	Hungary
20.	Ana Duplava	EURASHE
21.	Agnieszka Jelnicka	European Commission
22.	Lana Par	ESU
23.	Helene Peterbauer	EUA
24.	Aleksandar Šušnjar	EQAR
25.	Aleksandra Zhivkovikj	EQAR
26.	Leila Loupis	UNESCO
27.	Alessandra Ricci Ascoli	Council of Europe
28.	Noah Sobe	UNESCO

29.	Andrina Wafer	Ireland
30.	Chiara Finocchietti	Co-chair, Italy
31.	Emanuela Gitto	Italy
32.	Elisa Petrucci	Italy
33.	Federica Sancillo	Italy
34.	Marianna Tardioli	Italy
35.	Solvita Siliņa	Latvia
36.	Rita Teclofa	Latvia
37.	Graziella DeBattista	Malta
38.	Lilia Parhomenco	EHEA Secretariat
39.	Horia Onița	EHEA Secretariat
40.	Dag Hovdhaugen	Norway
41.	Hanna Reczulska	Poland
42.	Adrian Iordache	Romania
43.	Debra Macfarlane	Scotland
44.	Sabina Zajc	Slovenia
45.	Ernst Lindqvist	Sweden
46.	Stella Krepp	Switzerland
47.	Bas Wegewijs	The Netherlands
48.	Ayşe İnan	Türkiye
49.	Canan Ünvan	Türkiye
50.	Maryna Mruga	Co-chair
51.	Alla Rybalko	Ukraine

The meeting started at 9:00 CET.

1. Welcome remarks and introduction to the meeting

Documents: [TPG B PL AL 1 Final agenda](#)
[TPG B PL AL 1 Preparatory note](#)

The meeting commenced with welcoming remarks by the TPG B Co-Chairs. The Italian Co-chair welcomed all participants, highlighting the attendance of 51 representatives from 30 countries and consultative members, which proved the high relevance of and interest in the collaborative work carried out by the TPG.

The French Co-chair thanked CIMEA for hosting the meeting and stressed the significance of the thematic peer group's role in enhancing cooperation and exchange of best practices among member countries. She pointed out that the objective of the meeting was to present the state of play in relation to the TPG's work and discuss the TPG action plan for the next three years.

The Italian Co-chair presented the agenda of the meeting, which was adopted by the members.

2. Implementation of the key commitment 2 from the perspective of the Thematic Peer Group B

Documents: [TPG B PL AL 1 2 Implementation Key Commitment 2](#)

The Italian Co-chair outlined the TPG B's objectives and activities for the next three years. She presented the evolution of the peer support on recognition initially adopted in the Paris Communiqué (2018) and then reinforced in subsequent ministerial communiqués. She continued by presenting the role of the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group as well as of the three TPGs established to support the implementation of the 3 Bologna Key commitments. Then, the Co-chair described the structures established by the BFUG for the 2024-2027 Work Programme, with potential synergies with the TPG A (Qualifications Frameworks), TPG C (Quality Assurance), the WG on Internationalisation and Mobility and the AG on the ECTS User's Guide Revision.

The Italian Co-chair also presented the references to recognition in the Tirana Communique, which also pointed out to the uneven implementation of 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”. The report calls upon the establishment of national action plans to address any remaining implementation gaps.

Pertaining to the work of the TPG B, the Italian Co-chair presented the methods of work (peer learning activities, staff mobility, public seminars etc), the six thematic indications identified by the BFUG for the Peer Group and the timeline for the activities to be carried out. The thematic priorities included digital technologies (AI and ethics), alternative pathways (micro-credentials, non-formal learning), automatic recognition, refugee qualification recognition, and clearer delineation of roles and responsibilities among stakeholders and establish the legal framework to allow the implementation of the LRC. She emphasised the continuity of these priorities with the ones in the previous working period, whereas the ministers indicated an increased focus on countering education fraud and promoting transparency and authenticity. In the end, the Italian Co-chair also informed members of the intention to work jointly with TPG A and TPG B on a common document on transnational education, through a similar approach as collaborative effort which led to the elaboration of the guidance on micro-credentials for HEIs in the previous work period.

Greece informed members about the ratification of the Lisbon Recognition Convention by the Greek Parliament, with the European Commission adding that in this context they were looking into whether the European Union can ratify the convention as well.

In the capacity as Vice Chair of the LRC Bureau, Denmark informed members about the upcoming LRC Convention Committee meeting in October 2025, which would also include on its agenda a revised ENIC-NARIC Charter and a Recommendation on the recognition of transnational education. He also pointed out that the Council of Europe had established a working group on automatic recognition, with work carried out on assessing the feasibility of a legal instrument.

The Holy See stressed the importance of global and interregional cooperation in the field of recognition and requested that ethics be shown a stronger emphasis in the action plan, with potential links with artificial intelligence, alternative pathways and legal frameworks. She also suggested that the TPG B tackled the credit transfer systems in a global perspective to support recognition procedures.

The Head of the EHEA Secretariat informed members about the background of members in the TPG, pointing out that few BFUG delegates nominated both ministry representatives and ENIC-NARIC representatives, as indicated in the Annex II of the Paris Communiqué. He also suggested that TPG B members liaise with their BFUG representatives concerning the development of the national action plans and recalled the mandate given in the Tirana Communiqué to discuss the future of key commitments and their possible expansion.

Switzerland informed members about the successful conclusion of negotiations with the EU on a cooperation agreement which also includes education, to be put to vote in a national referendum.

3. A data perspective: Bologna key commitment 2 on national legislation and procedures compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention in the Bologna Process Implementation Report (2024)

Documents: [TPG B PL AL 1 3 BPIR](#)
[Bologna Process Implementation Report \(2024\)](#)

David Crosier (Eurydice/EACEA and co-chair of the WG on Monitoring), attending online, presented findings from the Bologna Process Implementation Report (2024), detailing compliance levels with LRC principles among member countries. Crosier outlined progress in embedding LRC principles in national legislation, however with the caveat that the BPIR did not investigate implementation in practice and the suggestion that the TPG takes into account both dimensions. He also pointed out to persisting challenges regarding the recognition of qualifications held by refugees and asylum

seekers. The WG on Monitoring Co-chair further presented evidence on the progress in achieving automatic recognition in recent years.

Upon a question from Italy, he also presented data on student mobility targets (below 10% mobile students overall), noting significant variations across educational levels and highlighting ongoing impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. He considered that while for master and PhD level the target of 20% should be attainable in the short-term even without policy intervention, increasing the student mobility at the bachelor level would require consistent efforts.

4. Outcomes of the first monitoring among TPG B members and presentation of the Action Plan

Documents: [TPG B PL AL 1 4 Outcomes first monitoring](#)

Italy presented results from the initial monitoring survey conducted in December 2024, which collected responses from 32 members. The three key priorities to be tackled by the TPG, identified in the survey, were alternative educational pathways, digital technology for the recognition agenda, and automatic recognition. In relation to digital technology, Italy emphasised that various issues such as AI and countering educational fraud could be brought under this topic.

Challenges such as information exchange among actors involved in the recognition sector and difficulties in verifying the authenticity of qualifications were widely noted. Data also shows possible links between issues chose as priorities and those where challenges persist.

Suggested solutions included training and seminars, increased stakeholder involvement, and active participation in international projects. Members expressed strong support for structured staff exchanges and peer learning activities to facilitate practical knowledge transfer.

Answering a question from Greece, the speaker clarified that verification of authenticity came up as a challenge in several answers, especially linked with automatic recognition.

In concluding remarks, the Italian Co-chair added that in the second part of the meeting the TPG would focus on what sub-topics to tackle, how and what synergies with other initiatives could be found. She emphasised that many priorities serve as a broad umbrella with various potential angles to be analysed.

5. Working groups on the TPG Action Plan

Participants were divided into smaller working groups to focus on elaborating detailed subtopics, defining the scope, methodologies, and intended outcomes for future activities.

Regarding alternative pathways, the groups emphasised the importance of defining the composition of the notion, considering various interpretations at national level. They pointed out that the TPG B should look into aspects such as recognition of prior learning, micro-credentials, educational offerings by non-traditional providers and alignment with national qualifications frameworks. They also pointed out to underutilised recognition of short cycle qualifications and incomplete periods of study.

Regarding digital innovation, the groups discussed digital verification methods, digitalisation of recognition procedures at HEI level, enhancing digital skills of credential evaluators, data privacy and ethics concerning AI-driven recognition processes. They suggested looking into the feasibility of an interoperability framework in digital recognition procedures and working on national centralised archives on qualifications. Members also suggested developing a guide to gauge best practices in digitalisation efforts.

On automatic recognition, members stressed the importance of developing shared terminology, exploring practical implementation strategies, and cooperation with the Council of Europe's ongoing initiatives.

Regarding the distribution of work and responsibilities, discussions concentrated on mapping current national models, monitoring recognition practices at institutional levels, and fostering transparency and accountability in recognition processes.

Regarding the methods of work, the members suggested that the group focuses on only on output-oriented work, showing aspirations, but also on learning-oriented processes highlighting progress in implementation. They also suggested coordination with the WG on Internationalisation and Mobility and the AG on the ECTS User's Guide revision in the recognition of ECTS credits.

6. Wrap up and conclusions

The Italian and French Co-chairs summarised key outcomes from the day's discussions. They outlined the importance of concrete peer learning activities focused on challenges and actual practices and reiterated the importance of continuous communication with national Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) delegates, urging all members to actively engage in national action planning. Participants were encouraged to actively engage in



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peer support activities and share information about relevant activities with the group through the EHEA Secretariat. Finally, the TPG Co-chairs informed that the next TPG B meeting would take place on the 10th of June 2025 (online).

Meeting closed at 15:45 CET.