

4th meeting of the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

17th of February 2026, 11:00 – 17:00 CET

18th of February 2026, 09:15 – 17:00 CET

Hybrid event

Location: Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi

Preparatory note

In line with the [Terms of Reference](#) for the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue (CG GPD) and the information previously shared with the Group, the 4th meeting of the CG GPD will **focus on Lifelong Learning (LLL)**.

LLL has been a recurrent topic in European policy over the last two decades. It is referred to in all the Communiqués signed by Ministers responsible for higher education in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), starting with the 1998 Paris Declaration and the 1999 Bologna Declaration. Another recurring term in the Communiqués is employability, for which growing importance is placed on skills and the capacity to adapt to evolving societies. In the Rome and Tirana Communiqués, LLL has been connected to the emerging topic of micro-credentials.

LLL, flexible pathways, and micro-credentials are highly significant in a rapidly evolving world where societies and individuals must adapt, reskill, upskill, and learn throughout their lives. They are also connected to the broader theme of holistic human and societal development, as well as to the growing focus on a student-centred approach and inclusive, equitable education systems.

The work done within the Bologna Process has contributed to shifting the concept of qualifications, as codified in the second-generation recognition conventions, toward learning outcomes. In the [Global Convention on Higher Education](#), the definition of qualification includes the validation of prior learning¹, while LLL is defined as “a process which refers to all learning activities, whether formal, non-formal, or informal (...)”.

¹ any degree, diploma, certificate, or award issued by a competent authority and attesting the successful completion of a higher-education programme or the validation of prior learning, where applicable.

One element that could ensure the comparability and portability of skills defined in terms of learning outcomes – whether acquired through formal, non-formal, or informal learning – is the Qualifications Framework.

During the 4th meeting of the CG on GPD, the focus will be on LLL from a global perspective, looking into the topics of:

- Skills and enhancement of human development.
- Flexible learning pathways, micro-credentials and recognition of prior learning.
- Qualifications Frameworks and credit transfer systems.

These topics will be addressed from the perspectives of Intergovernmental Cooperation areas in Higher Education, namely, the European Higher Education Area, the Central Asia Higher Education Area, the Common Space in Southeast Asian Higher Education, Espacio Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Educación Superior, and the East Africa Common Higher Education Area.

The **main aim** of the meeting is to identify the key elements to prioritise for improving dialogue and cooperation in lifelong learning at a global level.

- The **first day** will have two parts: the first part will be dedicated to the internal CG on GPD meeting, and the second part will be open to external partners and will feature presentations and a peer-learning activity (PLA) on LLL from a global perspective.
- The **second day** will be devoted to sharing the latest developments in the field, including participation from international, European, and regional organisations, as well as representatives from EHEA and non-EHEA countries and institutions.

Input from the meeting and PLA will inform the Global Policy Statement, which will be adopted at the Global Policy Forum in 2027.

Draft Agenda

Day 1 – 17th of February 2026

CG GPD internal meeting – Group members only	
11:00	Arrivals and registration of participants
11:30	Welcome addresses and introduction to the meeting <i>CG GPD Co-Chairs</i>
11:40	Adoption of the agenda and acknowledging the 3rd CG GPD meeting minutes <i>One of the Co-Chairs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Documents: 4th CG GPD meeting draft agenda 3rd CG GPD meeting minutes
11:45	Updates and discussion on the CG GPD next steps and activities <u>Proposed action:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion on the updated timeline of the CG on GPD Work Programme and further suggestions
11:45	Updates about the GLOBAL 2030 project activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information about the recently uploaded deliverables (Detailed GANTT, Project Handbook, List of macro-regional stakeholders for the CG GPD, Project website, Dissemination plan)
12:15	Discussion about the Global Policy Statement drafting process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updates on the status of the Global Policy Statement drafting process and on the group's expected timeline
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
Second part of the meeting open to external participants	
Peer Learning Activity on LLL – CG GPD members and external partners	

14:00	Welcome addresses and introduction
14:10	<p>Setting the scene: LLL from the perspectives of intergovernmental cooperation areas</p> <p>Proposed guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is lifelong learning considered a tool for equitable education in your region (LLL as a right?) 2) What are the tools identified to make lifelong learning pathways (including formal and non-formal learning) transparent, readable, and comparable?
15:00	Working Group 1: Flexible learning pathways (social impact, social justice, entrepreneurship)
15:00	Presentation from national perspectives
15:00	Working Group 2: Micro-credentials and short learning courses
15:00	Presentation from national perspectives
15:00	Working Group 3: Enablers (recognition and QA; funding, resources and sustainability)
15:00	Presentation from national perspectives
16:30-16:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:45	<i>Official Family Photo</i>
17:00	End of Day 1
20:00	Informal dinner

Day 2 – 18th of February 2026

Lifelong Learning in policy and practices – open to external partners

09:00	Arrivals and registration of participants
09:15	Welcome addresses and introduction to the meeting <i>CG GPD Co-Chairs</i>
09:25	Keynote LLL in the next 20 years
10:00	Panel on Policy and frameworks from global and regional perspectives
10:45	Reporting from the working groups
11:15-11:45	<i>Coffee Break (open to external participants)</i>
11:45	Intergovernmental Cooperation Areas in Higher Education: Synergies and future perspectives Proposed guiding questions: 1) What would you consider the priority of LLL? 2) Which trends are you witnessing in LLL and how do you think they will evolve in the future?
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00	LLL from policy to practice Qualifications framework, transparency and social impact
14:50	Implementing flexible learning pathways
16:30	Conclusions and way forward
17:00	End of Day 2

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