

Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue 5th Meeting

10th of June 2026

Online

Minutes of the meeting

List of participants

Country/Institution	First Name	Last Name
Austria	Michael	Roither
Austria	Katalin	Szondy
Education International – ETUCE	Hanna	Tanskanen
ENQA	Luis	Miranda
EURASHE	Ana	Duplava
Germany	Frederike	Krist
Holy See	Melanie	Rosenbaum
Italy (Co-Chair)	Elisa	Petrucci
Italy	Marianna	Tardioli
Italy	Isabella	Rinaldi
Malta	Jon	Vercellono
Moldova (Co-Chair)	Nina	Puțuntean
Moldova	Lilia	Parhomenco
Norway	Andreas	Snildal
Romania	Mădălina	Matei
Romania	Elmira	Chengiali
UNESCO (Co-Chair)	Leila	Loupis
EHEA Secretariat (Head)	Horia	Onița
EHEA Secretariat	Oana	Țînțar

EUA and Spain sent their apologies. Albania, ESU, European Commission, France, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Slovakia were absent.

1. Welcome addresses and introduction to the meeting

The Moldovan Co-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the CG GPD members and the Global Policy Forum drafting group for contributing to the documents to be discussed in this meeting. She also thanked the EHEA Secretariat for their support and UEFISCDI for the support related to the GLOBAL 2030 project.

2. Adoption of the agenda and approval of the 4th CG GPD meeting minutes

Documents: [CG GPD 5 CY NO Draft Agenda 12.05.2026](#)
[CG GPD 4 CY NO Meeting Minutes 27.03.2026](#)

The Moldovan Co-Chair briefly presented the two documents, which were adopted with no interventions from the CG GPD members.

The Holy See raised a point of order and asked the Secretariat to check the quorum for the meeting, given the low number of members represented in the meeting. The EHEA Secretariat (Head) noted that while the nature of the meeting would not be affected as there were no quorum requirements in the Rules of Procedure for the meetings of working structures, the low participation of CG GPD members (only 8 of 16 BFUG members that are members of the working group, were present at least at some part of the meeting) would be noted in the meeting minutes.

3. Insights about the organisation of the 4th CG GPD meeting

Documents: [CG GPD 5 CY NO 3 FeedbackReport 4thMeeting](#)

The EHEA Secretariat went through the feedback received from the participants of the 4th CG GPD meeting held in Rome, Italy, between 17th and 18th February 2026, and the associated peer-learning activity. They noted the good participation rate of CG GPD members and external partners, as well as the very good responses in the feedback survey. They thanked CIMEA for the thorough organisation of the 4th CG GPD meeting.

4. Updates from the first meeting with the macro-regional representatives

Documents: [CG GPD 5 CY NO 4 GPS Journey](#)

The Italian Co-Chair presented the main milestones of the CG GPD since the Tirana Ministerial Conference and the upcoming Group meetings until the end of the current BFUG working cycle. They also provided an overview of the first coordination meeting with representatives from macro-regions, held online on the 13th of May 2026, which outcomes were further detailed during the discussion on the draft (V1) of the Global Policy Statement (GPS).

5. Discussion on the draft (V1) of the Global Policy Statement (GPS)

On behalf of the GPS drafting group, Malta presented the main changes ~~on behalf of the GPS drafting group~~ to the draft document since the previous discussion within the CG GPD held in February in Rome. He pointed out that since then two GPS drafting group meetings were organised. After the Maltese representative presented the Introduction and Vision sections, the Italian Co-Chair opened the floor for discussions.

The Italian Co-Chair noted that one of the proposals from the previous meetings was to shorten the Statement. In this sense, she proposed to identify those points which may be similar and can be reformulated in order to arrive to shorter sentences and avoid overlapping.

Malta also suggested putting more emphasis in the Vision section on micro-credentials, flexible education and the development of skills and competencies, particularly because other regions may not have the similar access to those opportunities.

Building on the discussions held during the first meeting with macro-regions, the Italian Co-Chair also reiterated the feedback received from external partners to emphasize the transformative power of higher education, suggesting including the same formulation as proposed in the Vision section. Furthermore, Malta suggested recognising the enabling character that AI can potentially have for facilitating recognition of qualifications, skills and competencies and explore how they may be linked to learning outcomes. The Italian Co-Chair

replied that such reference could be better specified in the paragraph referring to digital transformation.

The Holy See reiterated their position that an EHEA document should not explicitly endorse the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and use instead a more inclusive language. In particular, they highlighted that they formally could not “uphold the UN SDG 4 and the global target...” since they are not UN members having adopted the targets in the first place.

The UNESCO Co-Chair went on with presenting the sections on Actions and Outlook. The Holy See emphasized that the revised ECTS User's Guide might exclude the possibility of using ECTS in a global context since only those fully implementing all the Bologna tools would be allowed to use it. The Italian Co-Chair emphasized that the Statement would use general concepts instead of focusing on EU or EHEA tools, in order to keep the policy dialogue open for other macro-regions.

For the Actions section, Austria suggested mentioning the revised ECTS Users' Guide and not only the ECTS as a system. Regarding the fourth bullet point, Romania proposed mentioning also 'education' together with 'research, innovation and knowledge production', while for the seventh bullet point, on enabling flexible learning pathways, they suggested focusing more on cooperation between regions *to promote lifelong learning and flexible and inclusive learning pathways*, while fostering equitable access, critical thinking, and global citizenship education. The Italian Co-Chair recalled that the representatives from macro-regions highlighted the need for improving cooperation both between and within regions. ENQA supported the idea of mentioning the cooperation between and within regional systems and networks but suggested rephrasing it to better emphasize the idea. UNESCO suggested adding the point on cooperation in the first part of the Introduction, to strengthen the point and also avoid repetition in the following sections.

Austria noted that the overall GPS is more structured, precise and politically actionable than the previous one. On the other hand, they outlined that *mobility* was more strongly developed as a stand-alone topic in the previous GPS, including physical, blended and virtual mobility. Austria believes that mobility should be strengthened in the GPS as a standalone topic and proposed a more concrete line of action on climate change education. Nonetheless, Austria believed that employability and links with employers and local stakeholders were also formulated in a more direct manner in the previous GPS, while in the V1 draft of the current GPS these aspects are framed more broadly through competences, the world of work and societal, cultural and employment contexts.

Finally, regarding the tenth bullet point on ethics, transparency and integrity of the Actions section, the Italian Co-Chair recalled the intention to 'promote and support' existing operational mechanisms, not necessarily to 'establish' them since usually they had already been established. They also asked the group members whether such mechanisms or networks should be mentioned explicitly. The Holy See suggested not to mention every mechanism and body, especially those which are European or those which are perhaps less operative.

In the closing of this agenda point, UNESCO invited the CG GPD members to send their written comments within one week, to allow for sufficient preparation time before submitting the draft GPS to the BFUG Board.

6. Presentation of the draft outline of the Action Plan 2030

Documents: [CG_GPD_5_CY_NO_6_Roadmap_Post2030](#)

The Italian Co-Chair presented the draft outline of the *Roadmap for international cooperation in higher education beyond 2030* (herein after 'Roadmap beyond 2030'), which was proposed considering that the last EHEA strategy on this matter was developed in 2006. It was recalled to Group's members that the document will be referenced in the EHEA Communiqué.

The UNESCO Co-Chair provided a summary of the first meeting with macro-regions' discussion based on several guiding questions: 1) What is the role of higher education institutions in the changing global landscape? 2) How do you envision the main transformative priorities for cooperation to strengthen mutual understanding, transparency and comparability of education systems? 3) What is the role of governments and their relationship with other actors and stakeholders in higher education to support access to quality education for all? 4) How could cooperation between regions evolve in the next decade?

They noted that the suggestions for the GPS related to the inter- and intra-regional cooperation mechanisms and the role of higher education were reinforced during the meeting with the macro-regions' representatives when it comes to the more forward-looking exercise of drafting the *Roadmap beyond 2030*. Participants emphasized that higher education institutions should play a role in promoting peace, human rights, sustainability, responsibility and a renewed form of citizenship based on tolerance. They also highlighted that higher education institutions would need to find a balance between technological and digital transitions and the role they have in shaping the citizens of the future benefitting from critical thinking and creativity. The UNESCO Co-Chair also underlined the suggestion of orientation towards lifelong learning, which should be human centred. The macro-regions highlighted the need to strengthen transparency and accountability, as well as comparability and trust across higher education systems. More concretely, they suggested focusing more on implementation rather than infrastructure and frameworks which already exist. Finally, participants recognised the central role that governments play in supporting higher education systems, especially in countries where they are still strongly centralized, but there is the need to create greater synergies and facilitate participation of higher education institutions themselves, as well as industries. Nonetheless, the need to uphold the autonomy of higher education institutions was mentioned, but also the importance of links between the universities and the communities they are serving. Another strong message that raised from the discussion was on the desire to continue fostering forums aimed at facilitating cooperation and exchange between different regions.

7. Updates on the organisation of the Global Policy Forum (Romania and Republic of Moldova)

Documents: [CG_GPD_5_CY_NO_7_GPF_Updates](#)

The representatives from the Ministries of Education and Research of Romania and the Republic of Moldova presented the current status of the preparations for the Global Policy Forum to be organised in Iași and Chișinău between 26th and 27th of May 2027. Romania noted the positive reactions regarding the interest in attending the Forum after sending the save-the-dates, however, pointing out that a clearer picture on the status of participation would appear after sending the official invitations. The current tasks are related to the communication of organisational aspects with national partners and stakeholders, in order to have the Practical

Information ready to be sent out in Autumn 2026. Furthermore, Romania informed that the call for side events had been launched, with a submission deadline for September 2026. On another note, they pointed out that the official invitations were ready and would be sent in late June or even September, for a better impact. Republic of Moldova provided further details on the cooperation between the two countries and the logistical arrangements for smooth transition between the two host cities.

The Holy See, recalling past experiences from other Ministerial Conferences, expressed their concerns regarding the necessity to attract ministers to attend the second part of the event in Chişinău, given the logistics and loss of time involved. The Republic of Moldova clarified that both the Ministerial Conference and the Global Policy Forum would take place in both dates and cities. The EHEA Secretariat noted that having already a couple of BFUG delegations confirming the attendance of their ministers to the event was encouraging. The EHEA Secretariat also informed about the discussion during the previous BFUG Board meeting held in Oslo, Norway, and the proposal to use the time for traveling between Iaşi and Chişinău as a way of organising bilateral or multilateral formats for ministerial meetings. Finally, they confirmed that further sessions were expected in Chişinău, ensuring that the event remained attractive for ministers. Republic of Moldova also emphasised that the agenda would enable the inclusion of panel discussions and keynote speakers in both days and in both cities.

8. Brainstorming on the Global Policy Forum agenda

Documents: [CG GPD_5_CY_NO_8 GPF Agendas](#)

The Italian Co-Chair proposed a brainstorming on the GPF agenda among the CG GPD, to be shared with the hosts of the event. For this purpose, she gave an overview of the agenda of GPFs held in Tirana, Yerevan and Paris.

The Holy See noted that what had worked very well in Yerevan in comparison with other Ministerial Conferences/GPFs was the authentic interactive involvement of speakers, carefully chosen for each panel. They recalled that in Paris the main space available for delegations was relatively small, thus making it logistically difficult to keep participants involved. On another note, in Tirana, besides the reduced participation, there were a lot of national statements that limited the time for debate. Building on these learned lessons, the Holy See suggested having on the podium ministers that can sustain interactive sessions, while allowing for the opportunity to present national statements at another point. The EHEA Secretariat also recalled that during the GPF in Tirana most of the speakers were European and with little engagement from ministries themselves. Moreover, they noted the expectation of participants in the room to be able to interact with ministers, which may not have been sufficiently provided for the previous GPF given the timing for each panel discussion and the number of speakers.

Regarding the content of the GPF, the UNESCO Co-Chair suggested including the post-2030 agenda, through having keynotes that are forward looking and bring the global processes into the Forum. Both UNESCO and Italy agreed on suggesting the three thematic priorities discussed within the CG GPD in the current working period as topics for the GPF agenda.

9. Updates on the GLOBAL 2030 project activities & status of deliverables

UEFISCDI presented the status of the GLOBAL 2030 project implementation as project coordinator. Firstly, they noted that the administrative deliverables were up to date. In terms of the peer learning activities, two out of the three planned PLAs had already taken place: the first

one in September 2025, focusing on quality assurance and recognition, and the second one in February 2026, focusing on lifelong learning. The PLA reports, which are also project deliverables, would be shared with the group once they are finalised by the Moldovan colleagues. The third PLA would take place in December 2026, organised in conjunction with the sixth CG GPD meeting, in Paris. This PLA would focus on the right to education.

As previously presented, the first coordination meeting with macro-regions took place on the 13th of May 2026. The second coordination meeting was planned for October or November 2026, with the 3rd one scheduled for February or March 2027. In addition, the project foresees 3 webinars with macro-regions, which are planned for the second half of the project, namely between 2027 and 2028.

The project also includes the development of 3 reports on quality assurance, recognition and digitalisation. The draft versions of the reports on QA and digitalisation would be shared with CG GPD members for feedback in preparation for the next meeting.

10. Conclusion and next steps

The Italian Co-Chair went through the upcoming time schedule, namely the BFUG Board meeting to be organised in September 2026 and the BFUG meeting to take place in November 2026 in Dublin, for which the ~~Post-2030~~ Roadmap beyond 2030 and the draft Global Policy Statement would be submitted.

They also invited the CG GPD members in Paris, France, for the 6th CG GPD meeting to be organised by UNESCO on the 10th and 11th of December 2026, in conjunction with the PLA dedicated to right to education.

UNESCO also emphasised that they celebrate the right to education each year around the 10th of December, therefore the PLA dedicated to this topic would be organised in this context.

As there was no AOB, the Co-Chairs thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting.