

Updates on the organisation of the Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum

Iași – Chișinău, 26 – 27 May 2027

Background

The 2027 Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum is organised by the ministries of education and research of the Republic of Moldova and Romania, with the support of the EHEA Secretariat.

The organisation of the conference and forum benefits of funding provided through Erasmus+ Programme, through the following projects:

- *Support for the 2024-2027 Moldovan-Romanian EHEA Secretariat: Delivering together for a renewed Bologna Process” (EHEA-SEC-4-BP)*
- *Support for the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue (GLOBAL 2030)*

At the Ninety-fifth Bologna Follow-Up Group meeting, hosted by Poland, in Warsaw, between 24th-25th of February 2025, the BFUG **approved the date** for the ministerial conference, as well as the roadmap for the organisation of the conference:

- BFUG XCVII meeting (15 – 16 December 2025, Denmark): Discuss the **save-the-dates text** and the proposed **list** of invited countries and organisations from outside EHEA
- BFUG XCIX meeting (9 – 10 March 2026, Cyprus): Discuss the **invitation** and the draft **agenda** (only with timings)
- BFUG CI meeting (4-5 November 2026, Ireland): Discuss the **Practical Information Note** and the **draft agenda**
- BFUG CIII meeting (early Spring 2027, Lithuania): Discuss the **final agenda**

Save the date

At the XCVII BFUG meeting, hosted by Denmark in Copenhagen on 15–16 December 2025, the BFUG approved the save-the-date announcement and the list of non-EHEA countries and organisations to be invited to the Global Policy Forum. The list also included Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, following a written proposal by Poland.

The save-the-date announcement was subsequently circulated by the EHEA Secretariat at the end of March 2026.

Invitation and preliminary agenda

At the BFUG meeting hosted online by Cyprus on 9–10 March 2026, the invitation and preliminary agenda were endorsed.

The agreed maximum delegation size is six participants for EHEA members, consultative members and BFUG partners, and four participants for invited non-EHEA countries and organisations.

A dedicated call for side events was also launched, inviting BFUG members to propose activities that could complement and enrich the programme of the Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum.

The invitations for the Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum would be sent prior to the BFUG Board meeting in Podgorica.

Development of the draft agenda

The next stage of preparations will focus on developing the content of the draft agenda, which will be presented for discussion at the BFUG meeting hosted by Ireland on 5-6 November 2026.

Given the political importance of the Ministerial Conference and the need to ensure meaningful engagement of BFUG members in shaping its programme, the BFUG Board is invited to provide initial guidance on the themes and issues that should be addressed at ministerial level.

In particular, Board members may wish to consider topics that:

- reflect key developments, achievements and challenges emerging from the implementation of the 2024–2027 Bologna Process work programme;
- would benefit from political discussion, visibility or guidance at ministerial level;
- address emerging challenges and opportunities for the European Higher Education Area;
- could contribute to shaping the future priorities and development of the EHEA beyond 2027; and
- could provide a meaningful basis for dialogue between EHEA and non-EHEA participants within the Global Policy Forum.

BFUG Board members are also invited to reflect on the overall balance and format of the programme, including the relationship between plenary discussions, opportunities for ministerial exchange, the Global Policy Forum and side events.

The guidance provided by the Board will inform the further development of the draft agenda to be submitted to the BFUG for discussion at its meeting in Ireland.