

Review of the ECTS Users' Guide

BFUG Board, 29 September 2026



Recap: BFUG consultation and discussion

When	What
9/10 March 2026	BFUG – discussed draft 3.1
March 2026	Further written comments on draft 3.1
5 June 2026	Draft 4.0 – incorporating any points discussed at BFUG
June/July 2026	Written comments on draft 4.0
15 September	Draft 4.1 submitted to BFUG Board

Written consultation

- Open during June/July 2026
- 13 comments received:
 - AT, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, IE, MT, NO, SE, SI, UK
 - ETUCE

Main topics and changes

- Use of ECTS beyond higher education
 - Supported by several countries
 - Concerns re. quality assurance arrangements by some countries
 - New draft emphasises:
 - National autonomy in deciding where ECTS may be used
 - Need for strong QA and transparency
 - Need for stakeholder consultation
- Micro-credentials
 - Different contexts and scenarios, e.g. new MC vs. MC part of existing programme
 - Need to be aligned with national regulatory framework
 - Institution decides on stacking and recognition

Main topics and changes

- Grades and grade conversion
 - Grade transparency approach welcomed
 - Transparency is obligatory, conversion is optional
 - Institutions decide whether and how to convert
- Awarding credits and issuing credentials
 - Clarify that only recognised education institutions may award
 - Transparency of provenance: formal, non-formal or informal context
 - Importance of digital credentials to include learning outcomes and key metadata
 - Level indication: must → should

Main topics and changes

- Mobility and recognition
 - Clarify that LRC only applies to higher education
 - Transparency of pre-approved pathways
 - Alignment of Erasmus+ templates/documents
- Standard formats
 - Clarify where elements are conditionally mandatory (“if applicable”)
- Various smaller improvements
 - Precision of language/expectations
 - Definitions clarified or updated
 - Glossary and info box updates

Proposals not taken in

- Make quality assurance references more flexible, even in HE do not require ESG strictly
 - Clear link with ESG compliance maintained as is
- Add specific provisions for arts institutions
 - Kept the guide generic/subject-independent as is
- Further separate between formal and non-formal learning
 - Once learning has been validated and credits awarded, they should be equal

Timeline: Next Steps

When	What
29 September 2026	BFUG Board – review of final draft 4.1
October 2026	Draft 4.1 circulated to BFUG
5/6 November 2026	BFUG – adopt final draft 4.1
26/27 May 2027	Adoption by Iași-Chișinău Ministerial Conference

Thank you!