Update from the Iași-Chișinău Communiqué Drafting Committee

Iași-Chișinău Communique Drafting Committee

Work period: 2026-2027
Co-chairs: Romania & ESU
Composition: Romania, Cyprus, Norway, Ireland, Montenegro, Lithuania, North Macedonia, ESU

Iași-Chișinău Communique Drafting Committee

- March:
  - 3rd DC meeting, online
- April:
  - WS co-chairs were asked for short initial inputs on the content of the Communiqué
- June:
  - 4th DC meeting, in person (Bucharest, Romania)
- July-August:
  - initial contributions and draft 0
- September:
  - 5th DC meeting, online
  - discussion within the BFUG Board
- October:
  - 6th DC meeting, online
  - WS were asked for contributions on the current draft
  - a BFUG consultation was launched
- November:
  - discussion with the BFUG meeting
  - 7th DC meeting, in person (Dublin, Ireland)

Roadmap	
BFUG meeting in Dublin	Discussion on draft 1 and feedback from the BFUG
BFUG Board meeting in Skopje	Discussion on Draft 2 and feedback
BFUG meeting in Vilnius	Discussion on Draft 2.1 and feedback
BFUG Board meeting in Skopje	Discussion on Draft 3 and feedback
BFUG meeting in Vilnius	Discussion on Final Draft and feedback
BFUG meeting in Iași	Discussion of Final Draft and approval

Structure of the current draft:

I. Introduction
II. Fundamental Values
III. Key Commitments
IV. Inclusive EHEA
V. Innovative EHEA
VI. Digitalisation and artificial intelligence
VII. Interconnected EHEA
VIII. Future Priorities
IX. Final Remarks

The current draft:

Fundamental Values

- Current context:
  - Fundamental values face increasing challenges across parts of the EHEA;
  - Geopolitical tensions, political interference, polarisation, AI and disinformation put further pressure on higher education;
- Commitment: Protecting fundamental values is an ongoing commitment of all EHEA members; All fundamental values must be respected as a coherent whole;
- Welcoming the first monitoring report;
- Further mandate:
  - Promote a common understanding of fundamental values;
  - Continue monitoring

The current draft:

Key Commitments

- Welcoming the work of the BPIR and BFUG TPGs;
- Commitment to publishing national action plans addressing the remaining implementation gaps;
- Welcoming the adoption of the updates ESG, EA and ECTS Users' Guide;
- Mandating the BFUG to revise the QF-EHEA;
- Welcoming the Key Considerations for CBQA;

The current draft:

Inclusive EHEA

- BPIR findings (to be added later);
- Committing to a national strategic approach for SD, measurable objectives for the underrepresented groups; to be reported through NAPs;
  - affordability of student accommodation and the cost of living
  - removing other financial barriers to access and completion
  - access to counselling and support services to prevent drop-out
  - monitoring equitable access to digital infrastructure
  - mitigating the digital divide
  - systematic data collection on the progression and completion of under-represented groups

The current draft:

Inclusive EHEA

- Ensuring that social dimension remains a shared responsibility and a central focus of higher education strategies at all levels;
- Recognising that SD also concerns the conditions of academic staff;
- Mandate the continuation of a dedicated working structure on SD;

The current draft:

Innovative EHEA

- Further development of flexible learning pathways, student-centered learning and lifelong learning;
- SCL as a central paradigm of the EHEA, with incomplete implementation; the prevailing paradigm in the context of the evolutions of digitalisation and AI;
- Endorsing the criteria set out in the 2022 Council Recommendation on micro-credentials as a common reference; strengthening the connection between HE and VET;
- Re-affirming the commitment to responding to the SDGs;

The current draft:

Digitalisation and artificial intelligence

- Recognizing the impact of the evolution of AI and digitalisation on higher education;
- Reconsidering the design of learning, teaching and assessment;
- Addressing the public responsibility of higher education and the need for transparency and accountability;
- Mandating the BFUG to establish a dedicated working structure on digitalisation and artificial intelligence for the next work period and deliver an EHEA-wide agreement on principles for the use of artificial intelligence in higher education;
- Asking the BFUG to examine the implications of AI and digitalisation on fundamental values;

The current draft:

Interconnected EHEA

- Adopting the EHEA Action Plan on Internationalisation and Mobility;
- Reaffirming the 20% benchmark;
- Recognising physical mobility as a key driver for acquiring international and intercultural competences;
- Commitment to removing persistent administrative, financial, recognition, social and linguistic, as well as policy and structural barriers to both outgoing and incoming mobility;
- Advancing environmentally and socially sustainable internationalisation and mobility;
- Deepening transnational education by removing barriers;

The current draft:

Interconnected EHEA

- Mandating the BFUG to review how mobility and internationalisation are measured across the EHEA;
- Strengthening the link between EHEA and ERA;
- Supporting the development of operational mechanisms to enable structured forms of cooperation between EHEA and non-EHEA countries;

The current draft:

Future Priorities

- To be added: *Drawing on the work of the Task Force on the Future of Bologna and on the consultation of the Bologna Follow-Up Group*;
- 3 priorities:
  - making flexible and modular learning as portable as a full qualification
  - maintaining the credibility of our qualifications and Bologna Process tools, also in the context of artificial intelligence
  - ensuring that EHEA remains open by design, connected globally, coherent internally, and consequential for the societies that sustain it
- Mandate the BFUG to translate these priorities into the next work programme and to ensure proper monitoring of commitments;

The current draft:

Final Remarks

- Establishing a Long-Term Secretariat, to be situated in Romania;
- Endorsing the next MC hosts;

Thank you for your attention!

The floor is open for comments and questions