EHEA Secretariat updates

Horia Onița, Head of Secretariat
CI BFUG meeting
Dublin, 5th of November 2026

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OVERVIEW

Today's update

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Working structures

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Report to the BFUG, key messages and the Study

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Other updates and outlook

Other activities, the road to Iași–Chișinău and the team

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Supporting the meetings of the Working Structures since XCVIII BFUG (online)

EHEA Secretariat

- 21 meetings of the BFUG working structures
- 10 meetings in-person
- 29 other WS coordination meetings
- Organising the in-person meeting of the Drafting Committee
- Organising the in-person meetings of the TF on FoB and TF on LTS
- Meeting minutes

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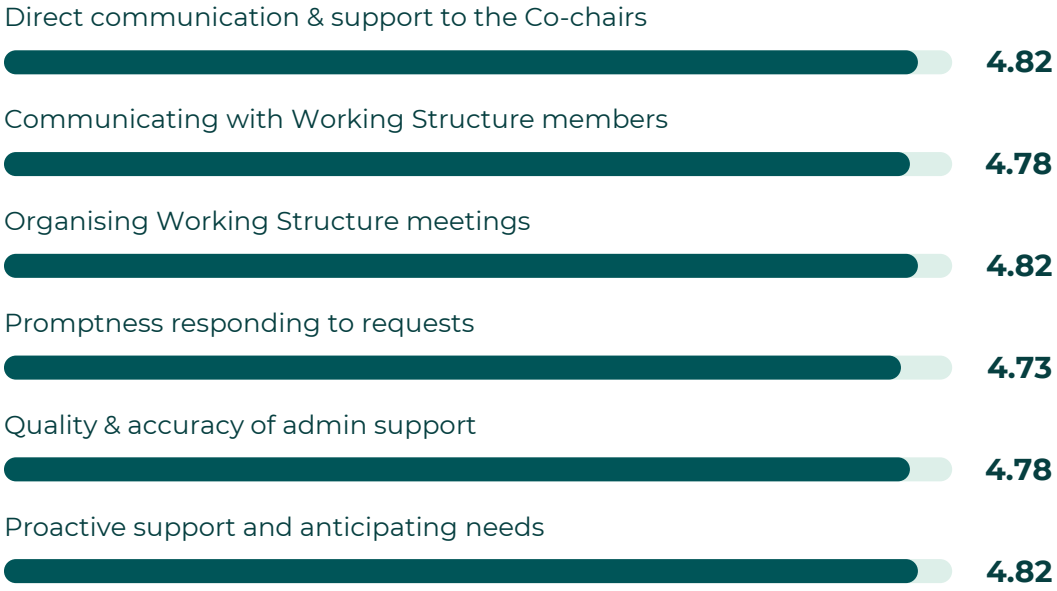
Feedback from the co-chairs

Survey of the Working Structure co-chairs, 2024–2027 cycle

4.78

out of 5

Overall satisfaction with EHEA Secretariat support



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The Future of Higher Education: Bucharest Conference

Over 100 participants from more than 38 countries across the EHEA and beyond gathered in Bucharest for the Conference.

Ministries and stakeholders (HEIs, rectors' councils, student unions and quality assurance agencies etc) shared good practice on Bologna Process implementation and discussed future trends for the EHEA.

Organised in dual-track with the Bologna Process Researchers' Conference. Report prepared for Dublin.

100+
Participants

38+
Countries

2
Conference days



Bucharest, 16–18 September 2026

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Study on Bologna Impact and Future Trends

Prepared as evidence-based input for the Conference and discussed at the Task Force on the Future of Bologna.

1. **8 potential policy recommendations**
   Proposed for consideration in preparation for the Iași–Chișinău Ministerial Conference

2. **Desk research and consultation synthesis**
   Brings together the existing literature with the BFUG's own consultation record since 2018

3. **Grounded in the BFUG's own data**
   Ministerial communiqués since 1998, the 2010 Independent Assessment, the Bologna Process Implementation Reports + stakeholder's input

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Key messages from Bucharest Conferences

Synthesis of the two days of discussions

1. **Implementation first: the bottleneck is ownership and governance**
2. **Explain commitments; the list should not only grow**
3. **The revised Bologna tools are steering change**
4. **AI and digitalisation touch every commitment; no system-level position exists**
5. **On fundamental values, law is ahead of practice**
6. **The social dimension needs accountability, funding and wide partners**
7. **Involve students, staff and stakeholders beyond national delegations**
8. **Lifelong learning tests whether the three key commitments still fit**
9. **Beyond Europe: recognition, QA and co-creation carry the EHEA's weight**

Several follow-ups are political choices for the BFUG and ministers; the report records them without taking a position.

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Comparative overview of terminology

Definitions aligned across EHEA documents, or the reasons for differences made visible

35

terms compared

General alignment with few differences, most explained by different angle (policy/statistical) or field

DOCUMENTS COMPARED

- ESG 2027 and European Approach 2027 (Draft 1)
- ECTS Users' Guide 2027
- Note on Terminology (WG on IM)
- BPIR 2024
- UOE / Eurostat definitions

HOW EACH TERM IS RATED

Aligned | Difference | Pending | Single source

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Where the documents differ

Programmes and degrees

Joint programmes and degrees

Credits, recognition and learners

Credit transfer and recognition

Programmes and degrees

“Programme” and “Qualification” and “Degree”

Internationalisation and mobility

Statistical approaches for mobility

What this means: the ESG and the ECTS Users’ Guide are already with the BFUG, so fixes there are mostly editorial. Alignment remains open in the Note, the European Approach glossary and the next BPIR.

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Call for the 2030 Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum Hosts

01.

Call adopted

5–6 Nov 2026: the BFUG adopts the Call for hosting the 2030 Ministerial Conference & Global Policy Forum

02.

Applications

By 1 Feb 2027: EHEA member(s) send a signed ministerial application letter to the EHEA Secretariat

03.

Selection

Presented at BFUG meeting in February;

Decided at the BFUG meeting in April

04.

Endorsement

May 2027: host(s) endorsed by EHEA Ministers at the Iași–Chișinău Ministerial Conference

The 14th EHEA Ministerial Conference — hosting requires a venue for 80+ ministerial delegations (5+ participants each); the host becomes a standing BFUG Vice-Chair.

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Structure for the Final Reports of BFUG Working Structures (2024–2027)

Drafted by the WS Co-chairs

- Executive Summary (max. 1 page)
- Introduction: mandate, aims & methodology
- Activities, Findings and Results
- Proposals for the next cycle (2027–2030)
- Conclusions

Compiled by the EHEA Secretariat

- Acronyms
- Annex I – Terms of Reference
- Annex II – List of Members
- Annex III – Attendance Lists
- Annex IV – Summary of Each Meeting

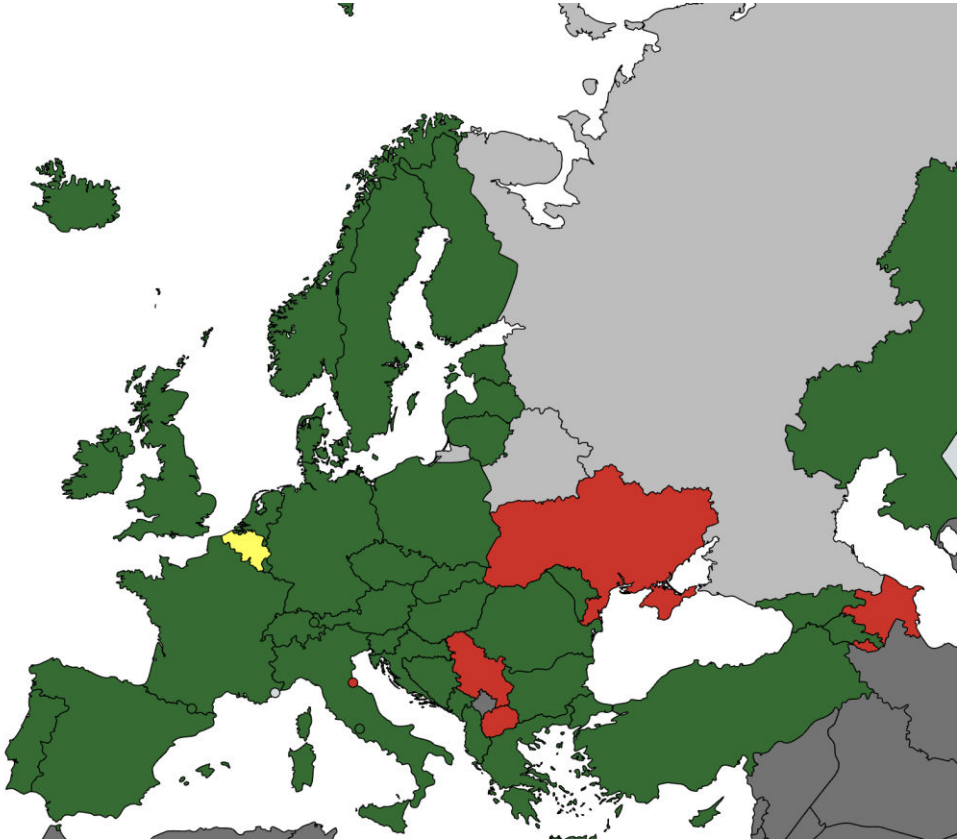
Main body ≤ 20 pages, incl. a 1-page Executive Summary.
Draft circulated by 1 Feb 2027, adopted by the BFUG in April 2027 for the Iași–Chișinău Ministerial Conference.

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Situation of submitting the National Action Plans

By the C BFUG Board meeting, the Secretariat received 43 out of 49 national action plans.

Plans missing from Azerbaijan, Belgium – Flemish Community, North Macedonia, San Marino, Serbia, Ukraine.



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Other activities of the Secretariat

Besides the items on the agenda

Communiqué

Support to the Drafting Committee for the Draft 0.1 and Draft 1

Survey on priorities

BFUG autumn 2026 survey prepared and presented to the BFUG

Ministerial Conference

Draft tentative agenda for the Conference and the Global Policy Forum and sending invitations

Liaison for monitoring

Communication on FV and the BPIR

Side events

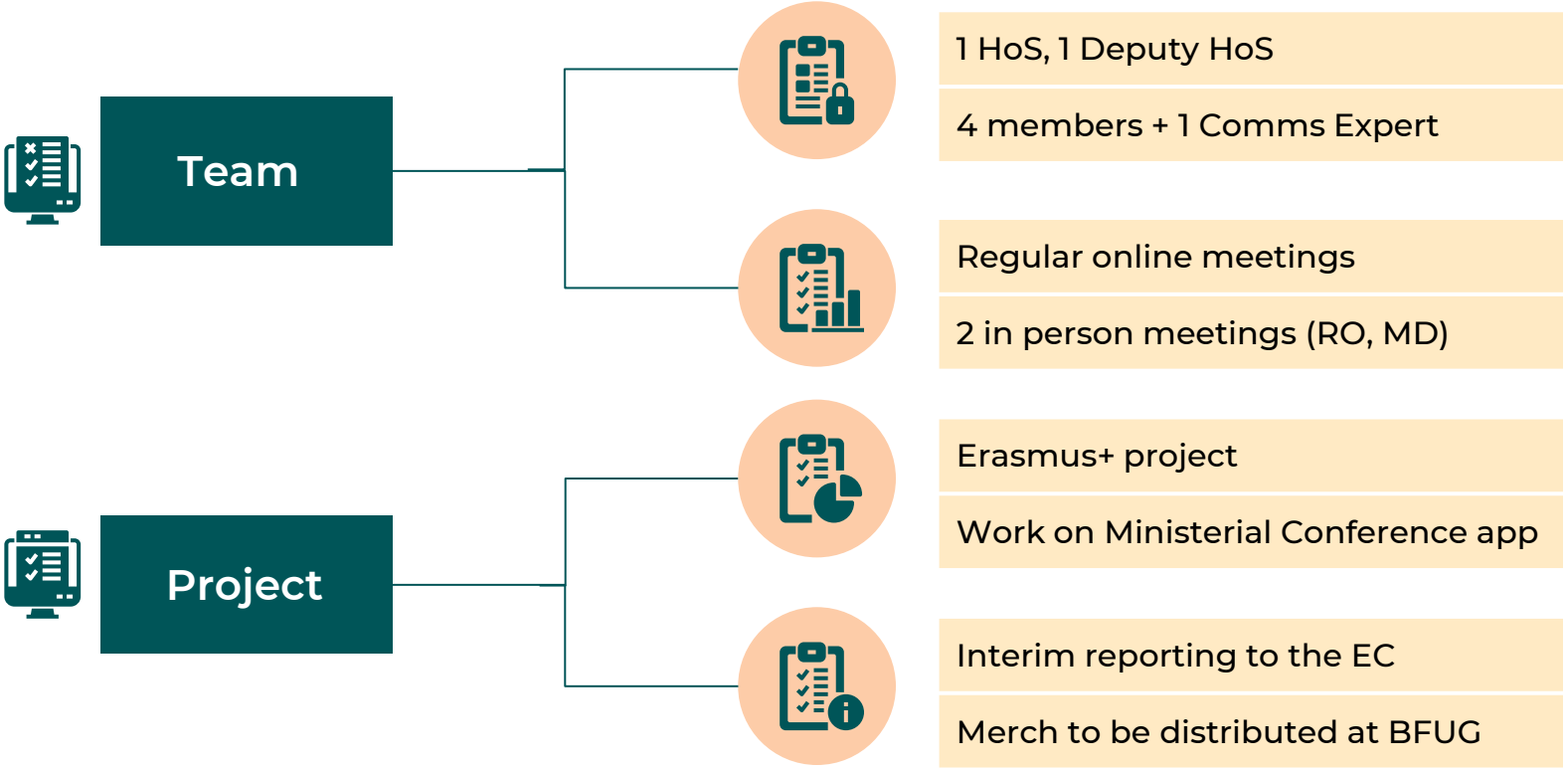
Call for side events at the 2027 Conference and Global Policy Forum

Communication

Website, Social Media and Promotion Corner

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Secretariat's team and supporting project



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