Reporting for the CI BFUG meeting
November 6th, 2026 in Dublin

Task Force on the Future of Bologna (TF FoB)

Membership and meetings

3 Co-chairs: Belgium-Flemish Community, Germany, Ukraine

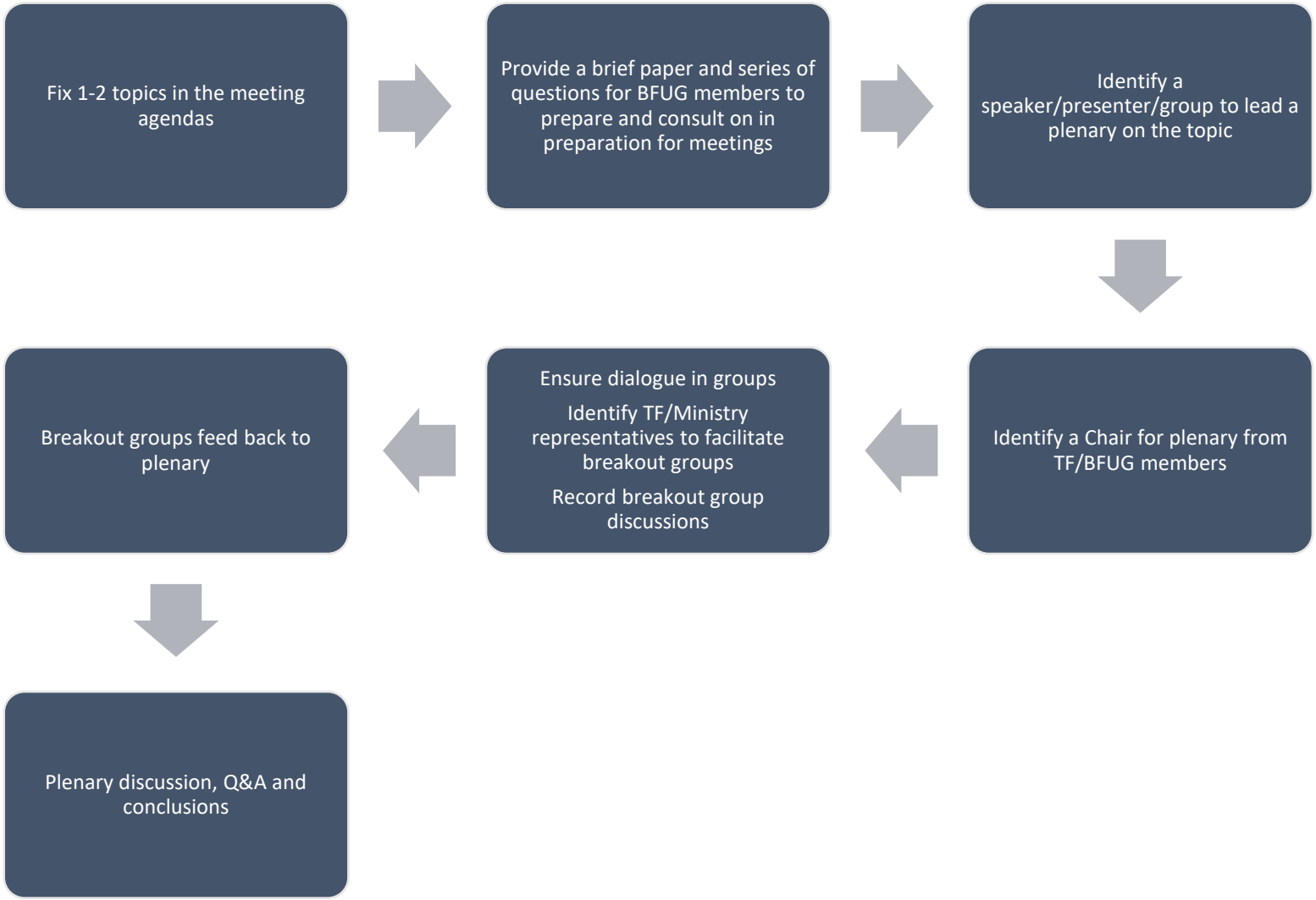
27 members: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium – Flemish Community, EUA, Croatia, ETUCE, EURASHE, ESU, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom – Scotland

5 meetings, out of which 4 online: 20.11.2024, 29.01.2025, 22.09.2025, 15.01.2026, 18.09.2026 (Bucharest)

Mandate and Scope

- The Task Force is defined as a small structure with an explicit mandate to foster topics for discussion within the BFUG, examine working methods, and identify future priorities of relevance for the Bologna Process.
- Follows the Tirana mandate *‘We ask the BFUG to submit to us in 2027 proposals for the main priorities for the next decade, in close cooperation with higher education institutions, staff and students.’*
- The Task Force's work should be iterative and closely linked to the BFUG, including the presentation of prepared topics in every BFUG meeting.

The initial idea…



Milestones & Key Activities

- Bucharest high-level conference, the 5th official Task Force meeting
  - Discussions on the background study and priorities including governance, internationalisation, social dimension targets, and artificial intelligence.
  - Key takeaways: importance of fundamental values, stakeholder engagement, and **not more commitments, without better implementation and follow-up.**
  - Feedback on the BFUG survey was reviewed regarding its clarity and scope.
- Roll-out of targeted member questionnaires to map shared priorities
  - Presentation by the Secretariat.

Results of Debates & Strategic Discussions I

- LLL (Lifelong Learning)
  - The debate highlighted flexible learning pathways, recognition of prior learning and permeability.
  - Shorter provision and changing learner profiles call for a broader understanding of student-centred learning.

  - ➢ Interactive discussions broadened participation, including delegations less active in plenary.
  - ➢ Future sessions need clearer plenary synthesis, written conclusions and an explicit follow-up route.

Results of Debates & Strategic Discussions II

- EHEA–VET (Vocational Education and Training) synergies
  - Connect higher education and VET through permeability and lifelong learning
  - Use short-cycle courses and prior learning to link both sectors.
  - Support credit portability and mobility via national frameworks, ECTS, and aligned quality assurance.
  - Overcome fragmented responsibilities, different funding systems and concerns about institutional identity.

➢ Follow-up proposals: a joint discussion on the Tirana Communiqué and Herning Declaration, and attention to VET transferability in the revised ECTS Users' Guide.

Results of Debates & Strategic Discussions III

- EHEA-ERA (European Research Area) synergies
  - The aim is to integrate education, research, and innovation, despite limited progress in previous collaborations.
  - Existing examples like European University Alliances were highlighted, alongside institutional silos and the lack of follow-up on previous proposals.
  - Proposals for cooperation include a standing coordination platform and regular mutual representation.

➢ Possible outcomes were summarized as a two-level approach focusing on structural dialogue and concrete work.

Structure for todays session…

- **TF Presentation** (7 min): Overview of activities and debate results.
- **Survey Presentation** (7 min): Presentation of survey results by the Secretariat.
- **Discussion** (45 min):
  - Content (30 min): Topics, commitments, instruments, and added value.
  - Process (15 min): Governance, synergies, and wrap-up (3 min).
- **Goal**: agree on direction and next steps for the 2027 communiqué; then submit our contribution.