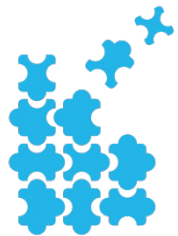


# Update from the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)

BFUG Board Meeting LXXXVII  
Holy See, Rome  
23 January 2024



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# Meetings of the BICG 1/2:

## 1. First Meeting of the BICG, 10 May 2021, online

The 2021-2024 Work Plan (Terms of Reference, deliverables and meeting schedule);  
The draft Guidelines for the TPGs; Status Quo Implementation of KCs; European Commission support for TPGs under the Erasmus+ Program; Next steps.

## 2. Second Meeting of the BICG, 1 October 2021, online

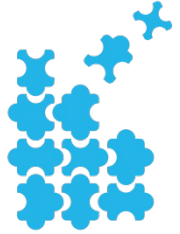
Update from the Secretariat, the BICG Co-chairs and the TPGs Co-chairs; Umbrella Projects, EC support; Work Plans of TPGs /discussion of Templates for Work Plans/.

## 3. Third Meeting of the BICG, 21 January 2022, online

Update from the Secretariat, the BICG Co-Chairs; Umbrella Projects and update on EC support, update from the TPGs Co-Chairs; TPG Countries' work plans, discussion

## 4. Fourth Meeting of the BICG, 29 March 2022, online

Update from the Secretariat, the BICG Co-Chairs; Update on EC-Support on TPG Umbrella projects, Update from TPGs Co-Chairs; TPG Countries' work plans, discussion



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# Meetings of the BICG 2/2:

## 5. Fifth Meeting of the BICG, 25 October 2022, online

Updates from Secretariat, EC TPG Co-chairs and different PLAs

## 6. Sixth Meeting of the BICG, 28 March 2023, online

Updates from members and TPGs, BICG Input for Communique, BICG report 2024 (draft structure)

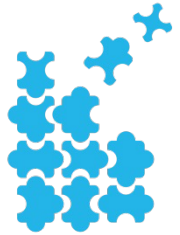
## 7. Seventh Meeting of the BICG, 25 September 2023, online

Updates from members and TPGs, BICG Input for Communique, BICG report 2024, TPG recommendations

## 8. Eighth Meeting of the BICG, 22 January 2024, Rome, IT, hybrid

*Regular pre- and post-meetings of the Co-chairs are also held.*

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# The Thematic Peer Groups - overall state of affairs:



- Composition and the structures of each Peer Group established
- Terms of Reference and guidelines approved
- All groups have established meeting schedule (2/year, mix of online a in-person)
- All TPGs submitted Umbrella Projects for EC support → all TPGs received support
- All TPG workplans were submitted by end of October 2021
- Countries submitted their TPG workplans by Jan 2022: **most, but not all, have done so.**
- All TPGs established sub-working groups in 2022 and have started working
- **Some sub-groups have submitted reports and recommendations**



# TPG A - actions

**5 TPG A meetings** – June 2021, November 2021 (online), March 2022 (online),  
October 2022 (face to face), Riga, Latvia, April 2023, Vienna, Austria

## **4 PLA meetings:**

- 1) Micro-credentials and use of QF by stakeholders – October 21, 2022, Riga, Latvia
- 2) Implementation of Qualification Frameworks and ECTS – Focus on Learning Outcomes – April 25, 2023, Vienna, Austria
- 3) **Self-certification – 28, 29 September 2023, Tblisi, Georgia**
- 4) Assessment of learning outcomes on programme level – Spring 2024 - Tallinn, Estonia

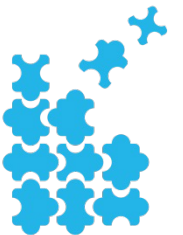
## **3 sub-working groups:**

Micro-credentials – survey on MCs in QFs

Self-certification- survey Self-Certification of National Qualifications Frameworks Against QF-EHEA

Short Cycle Higher Education – fiche on short-cycle qualifications for HE

➡ surveys conducted and analyzed → **recommendations made**



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# TPG A – latest developments Oct. 2022 – Jan. 2024 (1)

## TPG A – October 2022 Riga, Latvia

First face-to-face meeting; Exchange with TPG B and C Co-chairs (online); reports from 3 sub-working groups, discussion of various dimensions of MCs.

### 3 sub-working groups established:

**Micro-credentials:** First meeting, Sept. 2022 [ToR approved, countries share state of affairs, ETF and CEDEFOP describe challenges for MCs], Oct. 2022 (Riga), March, April, August and September 2023

**Self-certification:** First meeting Sept. 2022, October 2022 (Riga) (WG work planned), February and April 2023

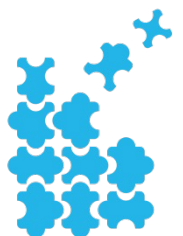
**Short Cycle Higher Education,** First meeting, Sept. 2022 [ToR approved, countries share state of affairs, presentations on Latvian and other experiences], Oct. 2022, March, April, August and September 2023

### 1<sup>st</sup> PLA meeting:

„The Place of Micro-Credentials in Qualifications Frameworks for Higher Education“

October 20, 2022, Riga, Latvia

<https://aic.lv/en/par-aic/projects/quatra-tpg-a/pla-in-riga>



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# TPG A – latest developments Oct. 2022 – Jan. 2024 (2)



**TPG A – meeting:** 26 April 2023, Vienna, Austria

Focus on „Policy priorities in the context **of learning outcomes**“, 3 sub-groups also met in person

**2<sup>nd</sup> PLA: 25 April, 2023 Vienna, Austria**

„How are learning outcomes perceived, transmitted, and implemented in daily practice of higher Education Institutions?“

**TPG A – meeting:** 29 September 2023, Tblisi, Georgia; 3 sub-groups meeting

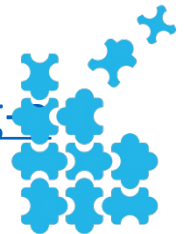
**3<sup>rd</sup> PLA: 28 September 2023, Tblisi, Georgia**

«Self-Certification of National Qualifications Frameworks to the Overarching Qualifications Framework of the EHEA»

→ Reports from TPG A sub-structures due **November 15, 2023 – published on**

<https://ehea.info/page-peer-group-A-QF> and <https://aic.lv/en/par-aic/projects/quatra-tpg>

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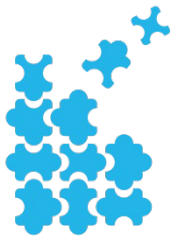
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# TPG B – Thematic orientation – 6 priorities



- Optimizing the potential of digital technology for the recognition agenda and the Diploma Supplement
- Recognition of alternative pathways
- Achieving automatic recognition
- Establishing the distribution of work and responsibilities
- Ensuring fair recognition of qualifications held by refugees
- Establishing the legal framework to allow the implementation of the LRC

<http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-B-LRC>



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# TPG B – recent and planned actions (1)

## TPG B meetings

- **5° TPG B meeting – 27 April 2023 (Albania)**
- 6° TPG B meeting – 1 February 2024 (online)
- 7° TPG B meeting – 23 April 2024 (Italy)

## Public seminars - in conjunction with the face-to-face meetings

- **Seminar on automatic recognition (28 April 2023)**
- Seminar on digitalisation (24 April 2024)

## Ad-hoc peer support activity and staff mobility

- **Staff mobility ( 15 applications; 10 staff mobilities involving 13 countries)**
- Further activities based on the needs expressed by the TPG members

## Cooperation among the three TPGs

- Updates from the TPG Co-chairs during the TPG meetings
- Joint document on Micro-Credentials



## TPG B – recent and planned actions (2)

### - 4 Working groups established:

- WG1 on micro-credentials (4 meetings held)
- WG2 on digitalisation (4 meetings held)
- WG3 on quality of recognition (3 meetings held)
- WG4 on European Degree (start working at a later stage)

The WGs will work on documents/studies focused on the mentioned topics

**3 PLAs on digital solutions:** input, throughput and output phases of the recognition process: on 19 September, 19 October and 7 December 2023

# TPG B – Staff Mobility

Hosting Country	Traveling Country	Date
Norway	Albania	10-13 October 2023
Norway	Azerbaijan	11-13 October 2023
Sweden	Ireland	20 November 2023
Italy	Georgia	27-28 November 2023
Italy	Armenia	27-28 November 2023
Italy	France	30 November 1 December 2023
Italy	Lithuania	30 November 1 December 2023
Lithuania	Romania	6-7 December 2023
Greece	San Marino	4-6 December 2023
France	Italy	16-17 January 2024

# TPG C - meetings and PLAs

**7 TPG** meetings for all members (4 physical, 3 online meetings):

- **1<sup>st</sup> meeting: Kick-off 30 June 2021 – online**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> meeting: 17, 18 May 2022, Leuven, BE/FL**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> meeting: 30 November 2022 – online**
- **4<sup>th</sup> meeting: 1,2 June 2023 – Kazakhstan**
- **5<sup>th</sup> meeting: 5 December 2023, online**
- **6<sup>th</sup> meeting: 13,14 June 2024, Romania**
- **7<sup>th</sup> meeting: November 2024, Belgium**

**3 PLAs:**

- ***Aligning the legal framework with the ESG, 1 Sept. 2022, BE/FL***
- **Cross-border QA and QA of transnational education, 21 March 2023, RO**
- **European Approach to the QA of joint programmes, 13 Sept. 2023, BE**

[European Higher Education Area and Bologna Process \(ehea.info\)](http://ehea.info)



# TPG C – Staff mobility Calls 1 and 2

## Staff mobility - timing call 1:

Launch of the *call for applications*: June 2022

Deadline for applications 31 July 2022

*Matchmaking committee meeting*: 31 August 2022

Selection results: September 2022

Staff Mobilities: October 2022 – March 2023

Review observation reports: May 2023

## Staff mobility – timing call 2:

Launch of the call for applications: 25 January 2023

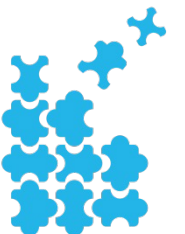
Deadline for applications: 31 March 2023

Matchmaking committee meeting; 30 May 2023

Selection results: June 2023

Staff mobilities: June 2023 – February 2024

Review observation reports: May 2024



# TPG C – 3 Thematic WGs



## QA of Micro-credentials

### 2 meetings held

- composition of subgroups working on desk research, guiding documents for HEIs and QAA
- inclusion MC providers in DEQAR, feasibility quality label, harmonised data standard
- finished the MC report

## QA of European Universities

### 2 meetings held

- analysis of legal and regulatory obstacles
- feasibility study in 5 selected EHEA countries, including 2 small PLAs (selection ongoing)

## Digitalisation of QA processes

- Documentation, Survey based mapping: launched March 2023, **preliminary results Dec. 2023**
- identification of good practices, interviews with some QAA representatives, reflection group, thematic workshop to discuss outcomes Nov 2024



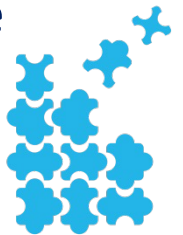
# BICG - Challenges, topics of discussion and reflection (1)

In a **generally positive context**, matters for discussion and consideration are:

- how to stimulate more active **participation** in the TPG activities by all countries
- how to **ensure** that **both** countries that believe they have completely implemented the Key Commitments and those that believe they need support participate fully and pro-actively
- **coordination among the various representatives (in different TPG) of each country is necessary but often problematic.**

The BICG's mission is to ensure that the **Key Commitments themselves** are at the **centre** of the TPGs' attention. Sometimes relevant but less central issues are at the forefront.

**Complete and compatible implementation of the 'Key Commitments'** is necessary for the realization of the other EHEA commitments – including new ones.



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# BICG – Recommendation for the Tirana Communiqué



The Ministers register the progress made in implementing the Key Commitments. The work of the Thematic Peer Groups, under the guidance of the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group, contributes to identifying challenges and finding solutions. After two work periods (2018-2020; 2021-2024), we note, that an implementation gap of these basic, and other commitments persists. Since the **full and compatible implementation of the Key Commitments is essential** for the EHEA to reach its envisaged potential, we **all** commit to:

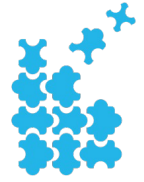
- **participate in all Thematic Peer groups (TPGs) where we have an implementation gap, as well as in those in which we can offer support;**
- **ensure that our nominees to TPGs are experts in the field, well informed about the policy level and about our country's higher education system;**
- **fully support our nominees and require them to communicate, coordinate and collaborate closely among themselves, and with our BFUG representatives;**
- **verify that the relevant laws and norms in our country are up to date, operational, and well known to the stakeholders.**

To close the **implementation gap** of these basic and other commitments made, we agree that after each ministerial Communiqué our country will devise a concrete **publishable implementation plan**, around which to coordinate ministerial actions and those of the working groups.





# BICG – Recommendation for the Tirana Communiqué



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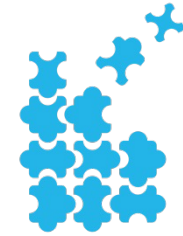
We welcome the progress made in implementing the Key Commitments. The work of the Thematic Peer Groups, under the guidance of the BICG, has contributed to raising awareness, identifying challenges and finding solutions together. However, where implementation gaps still remain, we need to address them to ensure that we realise the full potential of the EHEA.

We now commit to:

- participating in all TPGs where we have an implementation gap and in those in which we can offer support;
- reviewing our laws and norms to ensure that they are up-to-date, operational and well known to stakeholders;
- publishing a plan for each country around which to coordinate the actions needed to close the implementation gap.



# BICG - Challenges, topics of discussion and reflection (2)



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*The BI(C)G question is:*

Do countries **want** to close the “implementation gap”?

# Thank you for your attention!

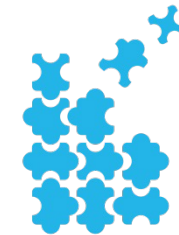


## On behalf of the BICG

Helga Posset (Austria)

Ivana Radonova (Bulgaria)

Ann Katherine Isaacs (Italy)



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