



# Update Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

Katherine Isaacs – co-chair

BFUG Board meeting  
23 January 2024

# Set up of CG on Global Policy Dialogue

- Currently 3 Co-chairs: Belgium/Flemish Community, Italy, Albania (Co-chair from European Commission retired)
- **17 members** take part (Albania, Austria, Belgium/Flemish Community, Belgium/French Community, Cyprus, France, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, UK)
- **6 organisations** (EI-ETUCE, ENQA, ESU, EUA, European Commission, UNESCO)

# Meetings of CG on Global Policy Dialogue

- First meeting on 7 June 2021
  - Second meeting on 13 January 2022
  - Third meeting on 1 June 2022
  - Fourth meeting on 24 October 2022
  - Fifth meeting on 16 January 2023
  - Sixth meeting on 6 March 2023
  - Seventh meeting on 26 May 2023, Rome
  - Eighth meeting on 27 September 2023, Rome
  - Ninth meeting on 30 November, The Hague
  - Tenth meeting on 17 January, Barcelona
- ⇒ In between work in the subgroups and follow-up of work plan

# Composition and focus of the subgroups

- 2 functional subgroups:
  - Tirana Global Policy Forum: chair Linda Pustina (AL), in her role as Vice-Chair of the BFUG, members are the Netherlands, UK, France, EUA
  - Drafting the GPD Statement: chair Kathy Isaacs (IT), with Belgium/FL, Belgium/FR, France, Holy See, Ireland, the Netherlands, UK, EC and ETUCE as members
- 3 regional subgroups:
  - Asia: chair Liesbeth Hens (BE/FL), members are Cyprus, France, Germany, Holy See, Romania, The Netherlands, EC, EUA, ESU, and UNESCO
  - Africa: chairs Elizabeth Colucci (EUA), members are Austria, Belgium/FR, France, Germany, Holy See, Romania, the Netherlands, European Commission, ENQA, and UNESCO
  - Americas: chair Kathy Isaacs (IT), members are Austria, Holy See, Ireland, Malta, Spain, the Netherlands, EC and UNESCO

# Outcomes of the subgroups

- Each of the regional subgroups has had numerous meetings
- All three continue their ongoing mapping exercises:
  - Contact list global partners
  - Mapping of regional events & activities
  - Mapping of topics/themes and regions (looking for synergies between ongoing processes)
- All three have developed various activities in or with the macro-regions they are responsible for, and they continue to plan future activities
- Policy brief for UNESCO World Higher Education Conference on 'Promoting Policy Dialogue among the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the other world higher education regions' was submitted, May 2022

<https://whec2022.net/resources/Coordination%20Group%20Global%20Policy%20Dialogue.pdf>

# Outcomes of the subgroups

## Focus on Africa

- Reflections on the new AU-EU innovation agenda (a set of reflections as part of the public consultation on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda launched at the EU-Africa Business Forum in February 2022), June 2022
- Preparation of 3 EHEA conversations: online events/webinars with 3-4 experts from the EHEA and Africa, representing regional organisations. Duration: 1,5-2 hours.
- Theme: recognition
- Start by inviting regional representatives, later go to more practical implementation at institutional level.
- First “Conversation” webinar, on Academic Recognition held on 12 December 2022
- Second “Conversation” webinar on “*Recognition for Lifelong Learning*” and including digital learning, prior learning, micro-credentials held on 6 June 2023
- Article on the first ‘Conversation’ sent to BFUG members and to partners in Africa, and published on ehea.info
- **Article on second ‘Conversation’, published on ehea.info**
- **Third ‘Conversation’: Joint meeting of the CG and HAQAA event, hybrid, Barcelona 17-19 January 2024**

# Outcomes of the subgroups

## Focus on Americas

- DAAD Bologna Hub event, “Global Dialogue on Micro-Credentials: Initiatives and Perspectives on Small Learning Units from around the World”, 23 June; co-chair K. Isaacs lead of Americas section
- First Colloquium between CG/EHEA and Latin American countries, 5/12/2022, in Montevideo, hosted by Uruguay, with representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, topic “Enhancing Global Policy Dialogue on Higher Education”
- CG/EHEA Session at the CHEA (US accreditation body) Annual Conference in Washington DC on 25 January, topic “Let's Talk: fostering global dialogue about diversity in a common framework”
- Participation in EU-LAC Summit, Santiago de Compostela, 4-5 May 2023
- Planning meeting with UNESCO IESALC and regional UNESCO representatives on occasion of the first Assembly of the UNESCO Global Recognition convention
- **Second Colloquium between CG/EHEA and Latin American countries, spring 2024**
- **Participation in regional CESPE +5 meeting, Brazilia**

# Outcomes of the subgroups so far

## Focus on Asia

- Conference of Central Asian Ministers of Education «Central Asian Higher Educational Area: regional cooperation, national reforms», 18 June 2022; 2 co-chairs participated (K. Isaacs & L. Pustina),
  - Expanding the Bologna Process in the Central Asian Countries: Forms, Methods
  - Trends in the Development of Higher Education in the Bologna Process
- EU-SHARE conference on micro-credentials, 20-21 July 2022, Bangkok; 1 co-chair and 2 group members joined (M. Soenen, EUA and Germany)
  - Micro-Credentials – the European Perspective
- ASEM process: ISOM meeting 24-25 November 2022, Malta -> looking for synergies, to be further discussed among group members
- ASEM expert group on Recognition and balanced mobility, 13 February 2023 online
- Invited speakers to CG meeting from CAHEA (Central Asian Higher Education Area and from ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)
- **Joint meeting of the CG with ASEF in Rome, September 27-29 2023.**



# Plans and on-going work of the CG

## Functional Subgroups:

- **GPForum subgroup** has met; a **draft program** was discussed at the 8th CG meeting and in the Joint CG-ASEF meeting, in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> CG GPD meetings. **The results and some questions** are presented to the BFUG Board.
- **GPStatement subgroup** has met frequently and presented its Draft 3 Statement for discussion at the 8th CG meeting and in the Joint CG-ASEF meeting. A 3x draft, updated on the basis of that discussion, was presented to the Madrid BFUG. A **Draft 4, still 'in progress, is presented to the Board.** It has been discussed in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10 CG GPD meetings and in the Joint CG GPD HAQAA meeting on 18-19 January 2024.

**The regional subgroups** have prepared and presented **lists of proposed invitees** for the Forum, which have been reviewed by the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

# Plans and on-going work of the CG

**Plans** are being made for a CG CPD regional Colloquium with the LAC countries in early spring 2024, supported by IN-GLOBAL, in addition to the Joint meeting with ASEF in September 2023 and the Joint GPD HAQAA meeting held in January 2024.

A new regional subgroup **for Arab states/Middle East and North Africa has been** proposed: a regional meeting is planned in conjunction with UNESCO is planned for the spring (to be followed by a regional conference after the Tirana ministerial)

**The CG has proposed organizing** dialogue/meetings on matters of common interest between **global interlocutors** and the **EHEA WGs**. The first meeting, between the Co-chairs of the Social Dimension WG and the USA «Institute for Evidence-based change» (IEBC) was held online on 7 July; the **TPG B and TPG C Co-chairs** participated in the Joint HAQAA and CGGPD meeting in Barcelona, 17-19 January 2024.

**Other WGs are invited to use this opportunity!!**

# Plans and on-going work of the CG

## Consultation and findings:

A large-scale consultation on perceptions of the EHEA and ideas about collaboration with it, involving stakeholder organizations, authorities and private persons – students and teachers – in the countries outside of the EHEA has been held, thanks to the support of IN-GLOBAL (along with the similar consultation carried out within the EHEA for the Task Force EKS).

Elaboration of the results seems to show that, with some exceptions, there is worldwide a low degree of knowledge about and interest in the EHEA. This finding would tend to confirm the **current strategy of the CG GPD and the Forum**: to promote dialogue among macro-regions, rather than offer the EHEA as a blueprint for others.

## Draft Plan for the Tirana Global Policy Forum

*Since 2009, in conjunction with the 'Bologna', then EHEA, Ministerial Conferences, there has been a 'Bologna Policy Forum', to which countries and also international organizations have been invited.*

*In Paris 2018 it was decided that the Forum will be called «**Global Policy Forum**». In Rome, in 2020, because of COVID, we could not hold the Forum.*

*The **first «Global Policy Forum» will be held in Tirana in late May 2024.** What follows is a **draft plan for the Forum, to be discussed***



## Proposal for the GPF

We must balance the need to have sufficient time for the Forum with the need not to force the Ministers to be present for long periods, so we believe a “**sandwich model**” meeting is to be preferred (that is, the Forum would take place “within” the Ministerial Conference.

Except for sessions which the EHEA Ministers might want to have ‘closed doors’, the global guests would be present as observers in the Ministerial.

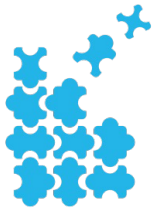




The 'Forum' sessions would include everyone. Our current proposal:

### **Day 1: EHEA Ministers meet**

We propose that the Ministers/organizations from other parts of the world can be present as **observers**.



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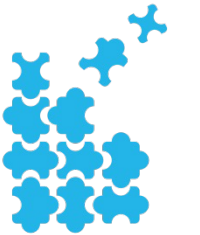
## Day 2: Global Policy Forum

9:00 to 10 am.

**First session: plenary (both EHEA and GPF invitees)**

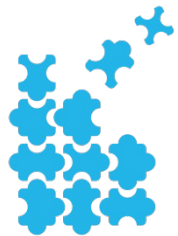
**Welcome** by the Albanian minister, followed by a brief welcome from a certain number (we propose 5) of EHEA Ministers (chosen from the willing, but aiming for persons from the north, south, east, west, centre of the EHEA).

A “**tour de table**” of the global guests. This could have the form of each “global” person/country / macro region presenting his/herself briefly. If there are too many attendees to do this, a video mélange can be produced, on the basis of short clips to be requested well beforehand, and cobbled together professionally (thanks to IN-GLOBAL).



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The **Draft Statement** is presented (it will have been discussed in regional meetings beforehand, and the input taken into account).



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## **Second session: plenary (both EHEA and GPF invitees)**

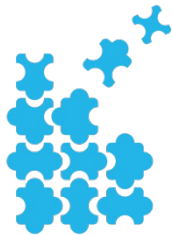
**10:00 - 11:00 am:**

Panel discussion with ministers from the EHEA and beyond

### **Goals:**

- to speak about the importance of internationalization and (balanced) mobility
- to discuss how regional organizations like EHEA, ASEF, CAHEA, the western Balkans, the EU-LAC region, ASEM ... can help achieve this

**11:00 - 11:30 Health/coffee/tea break**



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## **Third session: breakout groups**

**11.30 to 12:30**

The CG GPD hopes to have 4 breakout groups.

There are some logistic consideration, which we wish to discuss with the Board

Each group will have one or two moderators and at least one rapporteur.

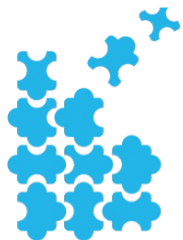
Each group will address a relevant theme, to be chosen from those indicated in the Statement, such as:

- Inclusion (Access/retention)
- Student centered Learning, including flexible pathways and digitally enhanced learning and teaching
- Mobility, including blended or virtual mobility and recognition
- Quality enhancement and assurance, principles and practices
- Coherence between learning outcomes and the needs of the labour market and civic competences
- Ethics, equity and academic freedom



\*supported by the IN-  
GLOBAL project, more  
information on [www.in-  
global.eu](http://www.in-global.eu)

After the breakout sessions, there will be a **final plenary session of the Global Policy Forum**, at which the Statement will be adopted, followed by lunch and the final session of the Ministerial conference.



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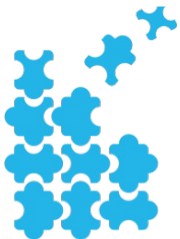
Questions posed: **How many** and **which** countries and organizations can be invited?

1. (How many) There are some constraints with respect to the venue, the CG GPD understands

that in the main room, there can be only 75 heads of delegation, and not all the members of the delegations will be able to be present in the main room.

The CG GPD proposal:

- During the Ministerial the non-EHEA delegations that cannot be hosted in the main room, can attend in other rooms with audio/visual connection.
- For the Forum itself, the EHEA and non-EHEA delegations will be mixed and hosted in the main and other (breakout) with audio visual connection.



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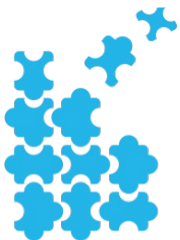
Questions posed: **How many** and **which** countries and organizations can be invited?

2. Which countries and organizations?

The CG GPD has presented lists, first and second preferences, on the basis of recommendations by the regional subgroups.

These have been vetted and rearranged by the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Questions have been raised about several countries.

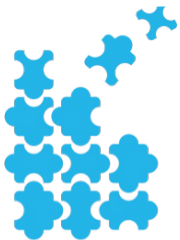


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Thank you for your attention and  
your input!

The CG GPD Co-chairs



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