

## WG1 Progress Report on developing the Bologna Process Implementation Report (BPIR), 2020

### 1 Context

The proposal for the scope of the 2020 report was developed through discussion within the BFUG WG1 at its two meetings in July and November 2018 and agreed by the BFUG in November in Vienna. The main elements of the proposal follow the Paris Communiqué request:

*"We mandate the BFUG to develop a Bologna Process Implementation Report assessing the main developments in the EHEA since the Bologna Process began, including to what extent we have fulfilled the mobility target agreed in Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve in 2009."*

The 2020 report is being developed in line with the following principles:

- 1) Focus on main developments & trends in the EHEA as a whole – and not on all issues in all countries
- 2) Make use of existing data, and limit collecting and analysing new data as far as possible.
- 3) Embed indicators within a clear narrative that is focused on discussing key changes over time.

In line with these principles, the report will combine three types of information: qualitative data – provided by the BFUG - quantitative data, and narrative texts on the main policy developments throughout the Bologna period.

As with previous editions Eurydice will be responsible for the overall technical coordination of the report.

### 2 State of Play

#### 2.1 Qualitative data: questionnaire to BFUG members

A **short** questionnaire is currently being finalised to update the main qualitative indicators that will be used in the report. These key qualitative indicators will be used to show the current state of play on key policy commitments. They will include, but are not limited to, the scorecard indicators, and will also cover all aspects of the three key commitments agreed in the Paris Ministerial Conference (three cycle degrees, recognition and quality assurance). There will be around 25 qualitative indicators.

The questionnaire will mostly contain figures that require simple updating. In these cases, the BFUG will receive the information submitted for the 2018 BPIR, and asked to update for the reference year 2018/19. If there is no change the process is simple

involving one click. If there is a change as a result of a policy development (or for any other reason) supplementary information explaining the change will be requested.

There will also be a few questions that are asked directly rather than in the form of updating an existing figure. This is because a "better" way of asking for the required information for a figure has been identified. There are only a few of these questions.

**The questionnaire will be sent to BFUG members by early April with an appropriate deadline (two months after being sent out).**

## **2.2 Statistical data**

The collection, production and analysis of **statistical data** is being undertaken via a contract managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). As in previous reports Eurostat data will be the main source of statistical figures, with specific data being collected from countries outside the European Statistical System.

Compared to previous editions, there will be fewer statistical indicators, but these indicators will show longer-term trends. The first meeting between EACEA and the contractors takes place on 22/3 so further information can be presented orally at the BFUG meeting.

## **2.3 Narrative texts**

As well as qualitative and quantitative data, the 2020 report will contain sections presenting the evolution of main thematic issues throughout the lifetime of the Bologna process. For example, a narrative section on the development of quality assurance systems will be drafted by EQAR, a similar section on the development of the social dimension will be submitted by Eurostudent, and a section on the development of internationalisation in higher education will be written by ACA. Another narrative section will focus on degree structure reforms.

### 3 Task Force on monitoring academic values

Through the Paris Communiqué, Ministers made a strong commitment to promoting and protecting values throughout the EHEA:

*Having seen these fundamental values challenged in recent years in some of our countries, we strongly commit to promoting and protecting them in the entire EHEA through intensified political dialogue and cooperation.*

The issue of how to develop an approach to reporting on values was discussed by WG1 at its "informal" meeting on 10 July 2018. WG1 recognised the limits of government self reporting, and considered that a specific group including interested organisations such as the Council of Europe, EUA and the Magna Charta Observatory should be established to work on this topic.

At the Vienna BFUG meeting (27/28 September) the WG1 co chairs presented the proposal for the establishment of this group: "*WG1 recommends that this task (developing an EHEA monitoring approach and indicators) is mandated to a specific group – involving Magna Charta Observatory and other interested parties.*"

The BFUG agreed to this proposal and the Secretariat, in response to a question from Iceland, clarified that the group should not be considered as a new, official group (working group, advisory group etc), but rather as a sub-group of WG1.

WG1 met again on November 6 2018 and discussed how to take forward the establishment and work of this new sub group. WG1 members agreed that, given the urgency of the work and the short time until 2020, it was important to move ahead with the work as quickly as possible under the auspices of the co-chairs of WG 1.

All WG1 members had the chance to express their own interest in participating in the group / Task Force or to recommend others. EUA, ESU, EI and EQAR (subject to confirmation) agreed to join the Task Force. Italy and Germany also expressed their interest to participate, and WG1 agreed that the co chairs should seek other country representatives to ensure balance between organisational members and countries. Although reporting back to the BFUG via WG1, it was agreed that there should be no requirement for a member of the Task Force also to be a member of WG1. The meeting also agreed that the Council of Europe and Magna Charta Observatory should be invited as members.

Following the WG1 meeting, a meeting was held in January 2019 to prepare the first meeting of the Task Force. This involved the WG1 Co Chairs, the Council of Europe and Germany. The preparatory group agreed to invite Finland and Romania to join the Task Force, and both have agreed. ENQA also asked to join the Task Force and this request was accepted.

The first meeting takes place on 25 March in Brussels, and further information will be reported at the BFUG meeting. The co chairs of the Task Force will ensure that both Working Group 1 and BFUG members are informed of the work of the Task Force as it progresses.