

# Drafting Committee for the Tirana Communiqué 2024

Melanie Rosenbaum – Holy See, Co-chair;  
Horia Onița, ESU, Co-Chair;  
Linda Pustina, Albania, Co-Chair.

BFUG BOARD meeting  
Tbilisi, 2 October 2023

# Formulating a Communiqué is putting the current “spirit of Bologna” into words

The Bologna Process, that has its 25th anniversary in 2024, brought 49 countries together to cooperate on the basis of shared goals to realise common commitments around higher education within a voluntary intergovernmental process, including important stakeholders, building trust by dialogue and creating the Bologna tools as instruments to enhance transparency and comparability of systems and qualifications.

- Analysing the past Communiqués during the 25 years of the Bologna Process, the DC realised that there are some topics that Ministers committed to follow upon, but this is so far not reflected in the recent policy discussions.
- There are also emerging issues that so far have not been taken up systematically but in various fora and with various actors (transnational education, etc.).
- There are several topics dealt with in various sub-structures that need to be tackled more substantially and systematically (micro-credentials, AI, LLL etc.).
- The DC sees for the moment a weighing of the parts of the Communiqué devoted to implementation (about 40%), projections for 2024-2027 (30%) and outlook to 2027-2030 (and beyond) of about 20% (plus 10% for introduction and conclusions).

# Challenges

- The Tirana Communiqué (TC) is a document to be adopted by Ministers, should have 3-5 pages, and should be policy level. One has to be able to read and use it as a stand-alone document.
- Drafting Committee (DC) received contributions not from all working groups, and they were very different in approach, length, and level of concreteness.
- Re-reading the vision of the Rome Communiqué (“inclusive, innovative, interconnected EHEA”), the DC realized to have not concrete enough information on the sub-structures’ link and the state of their contributions to the goals the Bologna Process/EHEA put itself and on the next steps to take.
- Therefore, the DC would like to ask every WG (Co-Chairs) four questions, as follows, to be discussed/explained at this Board meeting in Tbilisi, to be able to better take the current pulse and formulate commitments for the next three years and for the time remaining until 2030 - and beyond.

# Examples of issues that came up in discussions

- There was not really a following up on **employability/professional recognition** (Yerevan, Paris, blank, EURASHE proposal for Tirana), **intercultural understanding** (Paris), **mobility** (Leuven/Louvain).
- New focus areas: **digitalisation, AI, sustainability**.
- Overarching themes dealt with in several BFUG sub-structures: **micro-credentials, transnational education**.
- **LLL** seems dealt with unsystematically throughout the years, same for **Recognition of prior learning**.
- Did anything (positive) happen regarding **funding/resources**?
- Did we achieve what we envisioned regarding the **link with EEA, ERA/research, and innovation**?
- Is the Monitoring Report - next to being our most important tool to showcase achievements and issues in implementation - also used to identify **areas of action** (short, mid, long term)?
- How “successful” is the **PLA approach**? How to verify?

# Questions to WGs (I) - to be answered before/in the BOARD meeting

- **General questions to all WGs/TFs:**

1. What are the **main achievements** of your working group/task force in the working period 2020-2024 that you wish to see appearing in the communiqué? *If relevant, please group them under the i-principles laid out in the Rome Communiqué (“inclusive, innovative, interconnected EHEA”).*
2. If your WG/TF was to continue beyond 2024, what would the **objectives** to be achieved be for the 2024-2027 working period?
3. If applicable, what **commitments** would you want Ministers to take especially for the 2024-2027 working period?
4. Do you envisage a **priority area or an area “neglected”** for the period until 2030, and which?

# Questions to WGs (II) - to be answered in written form after the BOARD meeting, latest until 12 October 2023

- **Questions to BICG**

- see the previous general questions, giving the coordinating role. Furthermore:

- **Questions regarding TPG A**

Relation QF-EHEA <> EQF-LLL - (P) EQF-LLL vs. QF-EHEA - Discussion on harmonisation, internal vs. external viewpoints taken into account?  
Revision of ECTS Users' Guide?

- **Questions regarding TPG B**

LRC implementation? Automatic recognition? Reminder GloCo-ratif. (UNESCO); revision of the EAR manual;

- **Questions regarding TPG C**

Cross-border QA; European Approach Joint Degrees; effective trans-national QA.

# Questions to WGs (III) - to be answered in written form after the BOARD meeting, latest until 12 October 2023

- **Questions to WG 2 - Fundamental Values**

The Tirana Communiqué will be “stand-alone”, as the Rome Communiqué was. What are the key sentences to use as the the five definitions to be quoted in the Communiqué (as of ToR)?

Can those proposed in the Zero draft be used (lacking institutional autonomy)?

- **Questions to WG 3 - Social Dimension**

See the reformulations in the Zero Draft Text.

# Questions to WGs (IV) - to be answered in written form after the BOARD meeting, latest until 12 October 2023

- **Questions to WG 4 - Learning & Teaching**

The establishment of a SCL “substructure” (could be AG/WG/PLG/TPG/TF...) has to be discussed with the BFUG first, it seems not wise to specify already the type of group in the Communiqué (Workplan 2024-2027 will be discussed and approved only in Hungary).

- **Questions to TF EKS (Enhancing Knowledge Sharing); TF RoP; TF f. ERA, WG Monitoring**

Lacking further input at this point.

- **Questions to CG GPD**

Policy Forum Statement not yet presented: How far do the two texts (not) overlap? What elements to include in the TC?



Please direct **the answers and further comments and written feedback** within 10 days after this BFUG BOARD meeting to the Co-Chairs via the Secretariat, i.e. within the 12 October 2023.

The Drafting committee will review your feedback, distribute tasks, and meet on 16 October 2023, online, for taking up your input.

**Thank you for your attention  
and collaboration!**