Update from the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)
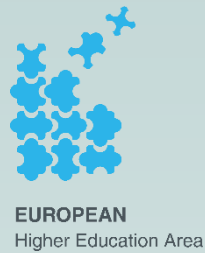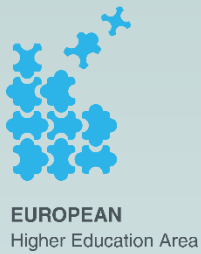
The BICG

Co-chairs

❖ Austria

❖ Bulgaria

❖ Italy

Members

(6 + the 3 TPGs Co-chairs and the Monitoring WG)

Albania; Austria; Bulgaria; European Commission; Italy; EUA - European University Association; EURASHE; one Co-chair of Thematic Peer Group A on Qualifications Framework; one Co-chair of Thematic Peer Group B on the Lisbon Recognition Convention; one Co-chair of Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance; one Co-chair of Working Group on Monitoring the Implementation of the Bologna Process.

The BICG is composed in a way representing the diversity of the EHEA with ensured balance of expertise across all key commitments.
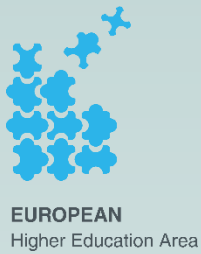
The BICG

Terms of Reference for the BICG

➢ Name of the Working Group

➢ Contact persons

➢ Composition

➢ Purpose and/or outcome

➢ Reference to the Rome Communiqué

➢ Specific tasks

➢ Reporting

➢ Meeting schedule

➢ Liaison with other WGs' and/or advisory groups' activities

➢ Additional remarks on the Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs)

http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG_PT_AD_ToRs.pdf

The
BICG

Terms of Reference for the BICG

Purpose and/or outcome

The purpose of the BICG is to facilitate a coordinated implementation of the three Key Commitments. To achieve that, the BICG coordinates the work of the TPGs, and facilitates an exchange of experience and best practice between the TPGs. The BICG follows the peer support activities and reports to the BFUG on overall progress and any necessary revision of the peer support approach or methodology.

The activities should build upon the work and the results/achievements of the BICG in the period 2018-2020 and the outcomes of and recommendations for the work of the TPGs presented in the BICG Report.

http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG_PT_AD_ToRs.pdf
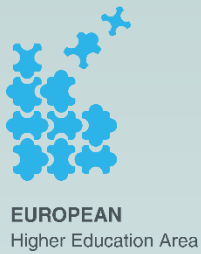
The BICG

Terms of Reference for the BICG

Specific tasks

- **Coordinate** the work of the TPGs;
- **Follow-up peer support** activities by keeping an overview of the composition and activities of the different groups;
- Seek to **improve the Peer Support Approach** for the implementation of the Key Commitments, including possible adjustments;
- **Identify synergies** in the work of the Thematic Peer Groups;
- Give the BFUG **regular updates** and an overview on the progress and effectiveness of the Peer Support Approach for the implementation of the Key Commitments, based on the activities of the TPGs;
- **Prepare analytical reports** to the BFUG on the activities of the different TPGs and the support for the implementation of Key Commitments as a whole, including operation (what works, what doesn't work), impact and usefulness;
- Prepare **recommendations for further actions to improve implementation** for consideration by the BFUG;
- **Provide an assessment of the usefulness** of thematic peer groups as a working method, including whether they should be extended to other policy areas within the competence of the BFUG.

http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG_PT_AD_ToRs.pdf
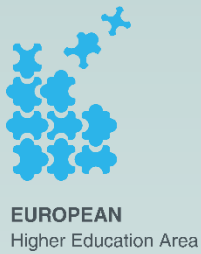
The BICG

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 of Implementation of KCs;
- The European Commission support for TPGs under the Erasmus+ Program;
- Next steps.

http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG%20_PT_AD_1_Agenda.pdf

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

- Updates 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/.

http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG_SI_AM_2_Agenda.pdf

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

Regular pre-meetings of the Co-chairs are also held.
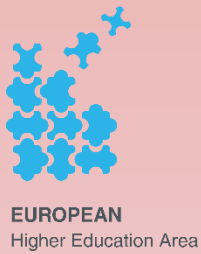
The Thematic Peer Groups /TPGs/

✓ 3 Thematic Peer Groups

✓ Established compositions and structures – including the terms of references and the guidelines

      /only one country has not confirmed its participation in any of the TPGs/

✓ First meetings held

✓ Umbrella projects submitted

✓ Work plans – by the end of October 2021

✓ Countries work plans – by January 2022
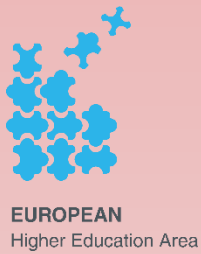
TPG A on Qualifications Framework

Co-chairs

❖ Austria

❖ Georgia

❖ Latvia

Members – 34

✓ 29 countries: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium /Flemish Community/, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Malta, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom/Scotland.

✓ 5 organisations: Council of Europe, EI-ETUCE, ESU, EURASHE, European Commission
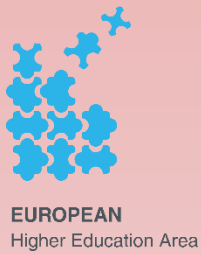
TPG A on Qualifications Framework

Specific thematic indications include:

- Self-certification of the national qualification frameworks to the overarching Qualifications Framework of the EHEA;

- Complete implementation of the ECTS Users' Guide;

- Short cycle higher education;

- Multiple purposes and use of the qualifications frameworks by the stakeholders;

- Study programmes outside of the Bologna three-cycle structure;

- Relationship between the qualifications frameworks and quality assurance.

First Meeting of the TPG A on QF, 7 June 2021, online

**Second Meeting of TPG A on QF, 4 November 2021, online**

http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-A-QF
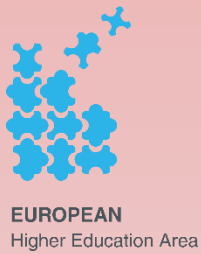
TPG B on the Lisbon Recognition Convention

Co-chairs

❖ Albania

❖ France

❖ Italy

Members - 46

✓ 38 countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium /Flemish Community/, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania; Russia, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom

✓ 8 organisations: Council of Europe, EI-ETUCE, EQAR, ESU, EUA, EURASHE, European Commission, UNESCO
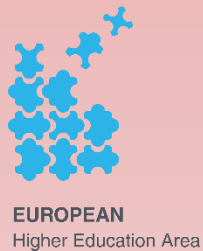
TPG B on the Lisbon Recognition Convention

Specific thematic indications include:

- Establishing the legal framework to allow the implementation of the LRC;

- Establishing the distribution of work and responsibilities among the competent institutions that have the right knowledge and capacity to carry out recognition procedures;

- Achieving automatic recognition;

- Recognition of alternative pathways;

- Qualifications held by refugees;

- Optimising the potential of digital technology for the recognition agenda and the Diploma Supplement.

**First Meeting of the TPG B on LRC, 14 September 2021, online**

http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-B-LRC
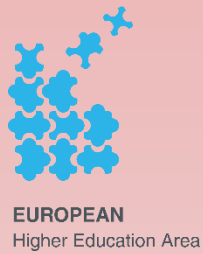
TPG C on Quality Assurance

Co-chairs

❖ Belgium/Flemish Community

❖ Romania

❖ Kazakhstan

Members – 49

✓ 42 countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium /Flemish Community/, Bosna and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, UK – Scotland

✓ 7 organisations: EI-ETUCE, ENQA, EQAR, ESU, EUA, EURASHE, European Commission
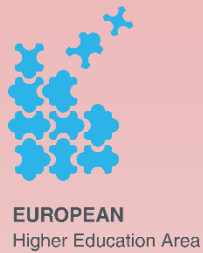
TPG C on Quality Assurance

Specific thematic indications include:

- Legislative framework in line with the ESG;

- Internal quality assurance;

- Enhancement-oriented use of the ESG;

- Cross-border QA;

- The European Approach to the QA of joint programmes.

First Meeting of the TPG C on QA, 30 June 2021, online

http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-C-QA
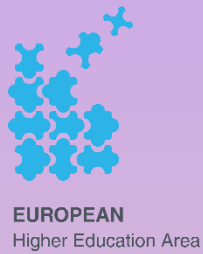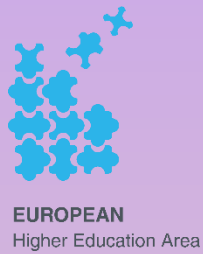
The umbrella projects – Erasmus+ support

TPG A on QF

- The **main aim** – to provide the EHEA member states with opportunities for peer learning and exchange of best practices by organizing various PLA activities and working groups. The project will focus on activities TPG A on the Qualifications Framework, which supports the Key Commitment 1 (a three-cycle system compatible with the overarching Qualifications Framework of the EHEA and first and second cycle degrees scaled by ECTS).

- The project builds on themes that have been identified as priorities within the TPG A on QF. The topics covered will be the Implementation of the Qualifications Frameworks and ECTS, focusing on learning outcomes, the assessment of learning outcomes on programme level, Self-certification, as well as one of the key topics at European level regarding the implementation of micro-credentials within the context of QF.

- 3 working groups will be established with an aim to encourage in-depth discussions in order to provide specific recommendations on various QF-related topics (Self-certification, Short cycle higher education, as well as micro-credentials).
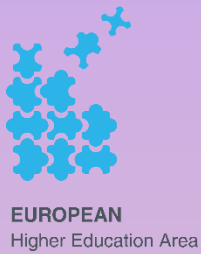
The umbrella projects – Erasmus+ support

TPG B on LRC

- The **main aim** – supporting the implementation of the Bologna Process focusing on the key commitment 2 on national legislation and procedures compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention in the countries that are part of the Thematic Peer Group B.

- **Work packages**
  - WP1. Support to the organization of the TPG B meetings
  - WP2. Organisation of public seminars
  - WP3. Research and publications
  - WP4. Peer support activities
  - Transversal WPs: WP5. Quality Assurance and WP6. Dissemination and sustainability

The umbrella projects – Erasmus+ support

TPG C on QA

- The **main aim** – supporting the implementation of the Bologna Process focusing on the key commitment 3 on the Quality Assuramce in the countries that are part of the Thematic Peer Group C.

- **Work packages**
  - Overall management
  - Organisation of TPG meetings
  - Staff mobility programme
  - PLA (3)
  - 3 thematic WPs: QA of Micro-credentials (ENQA), QA of European Universities, Digitalisation of QA processes
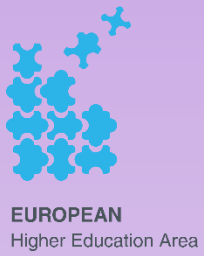
The Erasmus+ EHEA reforms call

- ❖ Creating opportunities

- ❖ Establishing barriers

- ❖ Raising questions

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!