



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
Ministry of Science  
and Education



MINISTRY  
OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE  
OF UKRAINE

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## BFUG BOARD MEETING LXVIII

7 February 2020

Zagreb (Croatia)

### Minutes

#### List of participants

	Delegation	First name	Family name(s)
1.	BFUG Co-chair (Croatia)	Loredana	Maravić
2.	BFUG Co-chair (Croatia)	Leonardo	Marušić
3.	BFUG Co-chair (Croatia) and BICG Co-chair	Ana	Tecilazić Goršić
4.	BFUG Co-chair (Ukraine)	Olexandr	Smyrnov
5.	BFUG Co-chair (Ukraine)	Kateryna	Suprun
6.	BFUG outgoing Co-chair (Finland)	Maija	Innola
7.	BFUG outgoing Co-chair (Finland)	Birgitta	Vuorinen
8.	BFUG outgoing Co-chair (Turkey)	Elif	Huntürk
9.	BFUG outgoing Co-chair (Turkey)	Tuncay	Dögeroğlu
10.	BFUG incoming Co-chair (Germany)	Peter	Greisler
11.	BFUG incoming Co-chair (United Kingdom, Scotland)	Michael	Watney
12.	BFUG incoming Co-chair (United Kingdom)	Pamela	Wilkinson
13.	BFUG Vice-chair (Italy)	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
14.	Council of Europe	Sjur	Bergan
15.	ESU	Robert	Napier
16.	EUA	Michael	Gaebel
17.	EURASHE	Michal	Karpíšek
18.	European Commission	Klara	Engels-Perenyi
19.	AG1 on Social Dimension Co- chair (Croatia)	Ninoslav	Šćukanec Schmidt

	<b>Delegation</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Family name(s)</b>
20.	CG1 on Global Policy Dialogue Co-chair (Belgium Flemish Community)	Magalie	Soenen
21.	WG1 on Monitoring Co-chair	Tone Flood	Strøm
22.	BFUG Secretariat	Rocío	Iglesias de Ussel Rubio
23.	BFUG Secretariat	Edlira Adi	Kahani Subashi
24.	BFUG Secretariat	Vera	Lucke

Apologies from: AG2 on Learning and Teaching Co-chairs and the Head of the BFUG Secretariat.

## **1. Welcome and information**

### 1.1 Information by the outgoing BFUG Co-chairs: Finland / Turkey; feedback from the BFUG meeting in Helsinki in November 2019

The discussions in the Helsinki meeting were very productive and brought the agenda forward. Since then the Finish Co-chairs have collaborated with the European Research Area, and informed that ERAC will have a separate agenda item on strengthening the links between EHEA and ERA in the ERAC meeting in March. The outcomes will be reported to the BFUG. After the Helsinki BFUG meeting, an electronic consultation was held and the chairmanship arrangements for the period 2020-2023 were approved, although the issue of what to do in case the host country of the upcoming Ministerial Conference, and hence Vice chair, would also be in line to co-chair the BFUG during this period needs to still be decided.

### 1.2 Welcome by the current BFUG Co-chairs: Croatia / Ukraine

The Croatian and Ukrainian BFUG Co-chairs thanked the outgoing BFUG Co-chairs for their handover and welcomed the Board meeting participants. They mentioned that the Drafting Committee meeting the day before was efficient and that they count on the support and cooperation of the Board with regard to the discussion of the Draft Communiqué.

### 1.3 Information by the BFUG Vice-chair (Italy)

The Vice-chair thanked the Drafting Committee (DC) for the intense and fruitful meeting held the day before and welcomed all the participants to this Board meeting.

## **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

*Attachment: BFUG\_HR\_UA\_68\_2a\_Draft Agenda.pdf*

*Attachment: BFUG\_HR\_UA\_68\_2b\_Draft Annotated Agenda.pdf*

### **3. Information by the BFUG Secretariat**

The BFUG Secretariat informed about two updates on the EHEA website: The “Future of the EHEA – Consultations” page was moved from the homepage to the topics section and the Roadmap of the Drafting Committee was uploaded.

Concerning the next working period 2020-2023, the incoming BFUG Co-chairs Germany and United Kingdom and all the 2020-2023 Co-chairs were approved via electronic consultation. The call to host the Ministerial Conference 2023 and the BFUG Secretariat 2020-2023 is on the website (<http://ehea.info/page-how-does-the-bologna-process-work>). No applications have arrived so far.

There were two requests for information on how to join the Bologna Process/EHEA: One from the Faroe Islands, which was forwarded to the Danish BFUG delegation, and one from Iraqi Kurdistan, which will be answered by the BFUG Co-chairs, stating that only States parties to the European Cultural Convention can join the process.

In addition, the BFUG Secretariat informed about some issues related to WG1 on monitoring. The composition of this working group was established in one of the prior working periods and the group is now composed of 16 country members, a number of whom regularly fail to attend meetings. Some communication and material provision issues were raised and the BFUG Secretariat took this opportunity to remind all the Co-chairs of all groups that the Secretariat has updated lists of group members and that messages and material should be sent via the Secretariat to alleviate some of these issues. Concerning the group’s composition, it was concluded that it is open to all the BFUG members and Consultative members, anytime, to request to join. As with all BFUG groups, the ToR and the composition of this group will be established from scratch in the next working period and approved by the BFUG.

Comments on this item suggested that on the website the topic “global dimension of the Bologna Process” should be added.

Some Board members would like to add an agenda item on a decision concerning the possibility to postpone a BFUG co-chairing arrangement when a country is hosting the next EHEA Ministerial Conference and therefore holds the BFUG Vice-chairmanship. It was agreed that this topic would be raised and agreed at the Kyiv BFUG meeting.

*Attachment: BFUG\_HR\_UA\_68\_3\_Information\_BFUG\_Secretariat.pdf*

### **4. Updates and draft recommendations from the AGs, CGs, and WG1**

#### **4.1 Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)**

The activities of the Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs) are still ongoing and the BICG will have its next meeting in mid-March. The BICG Co-chairs have prepared a survey (with deadline on 31 March) that will be sent to the participants of all Thematic Peer Groups asking for feedback on the peer support approach. This will feed into the BICG’s final report and recommendations that will be presented at the BFUG meeting in May, in Split. At the BFUG meeting in Split, there should be space on the agenda for the three TPGs to present their

proposals for further work on the three Bologna Key Commitments. The BICG Co-chair presented recommendations for the Rome Communiqué (as slightly revised the day before during the Drafting Committee meeting) and suggestions on further work from the three TPGs. Regarding the peer support model in general, it seems to be of clear added value and enhances communication and interaction between the countries on the three key commitments. It was suggested to involve more external stakeholders in the future and to propose new topics in case the peer support approach is to be continued according to the next workplan.

The BICG Co-chair presented two open questions to the Board:

1. How should the work of the groups be presented in the Communiqué?

The first idea was to present it in some lines in the Communiqué itself. Then, a suggestion was made by some Board members, as a comment on the draft Communiqué, to have the Final report as an annex. As annexes are automatically adopted by the Ministers, an issue has been raised at the Drafting Committee meeting the day before on how to treat different outcomes of different groups. ESU, as the representative of the Consultative members at the DC, has suggested that it would not be appropriate for a group report to have the same status as an annex to the Communiqué as the Principles and Guidelines on Social Dimension. Finally, there was a suggestion to distinguish two different types of annexes (as was the case with the Yerevan Communiqué): documents that are adopted by the ministers as annexes together with the Communiqué and documents that are acknowledged by the ministers as “background material”.

2. Does the BFUG need a Bologna Implementation Coordination Group for the next period?

The Board agreed that it is advisable that the BICG continues in the future, as its current role to coordinate the three TPGs, ensure the implementation progress and standardise the reporting back from the TPGs is working well. The added value and a clearer description of the reasons how and why the peer support works, should be specified in the report to the Ministerial Conference.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_4\_1\_BICG*

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_4\_1\_BICG\_presentation*

#### 4.2 Advisory Group 1 on Social Dimension (AG1)

The group’s activities and the Principles and Guidelines (PAGs) draft document were presented and the group will try to submit the final version before the March BFUG meeting in Kyiv.

In the next and last meeting of the group, that will take place in Copenhagen on 11 February, the long-term implementation of PAGs will be discussed. In case further small changes should be made to the document after that meeting, proposals and decisions will be made electronically.

The Co-chair proposed to add the PAGs document as annex to the Communiqué.

The text was appreciated by the Board, as it is well-balanced. The introduction should refer to the public responsibility and there should be a clear political commitment for the proper implementation of the PAGs by taking off words like *ideally*. Some other comments concerning the terminology were made, such as a definition of *vulnerable* or *diverse students* and *staff* would be needed, and *government* should be replaced by *public authorities*.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_4\_2\_AG1*

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_4\_2\_AG1\_PAGs*

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_4\_2\_AG1\_Presentation*

#### 4.3 Advisory Group 2 on Learning and Teaching (AG2)

The EURASHE representative presented this item on behalf of the AG2 on Learning & Teaching Co-chairs. The mandate for this group was to look at what governments can do to support innovative Learning and Teaching, whereas most of it concerns institutional level and the academic community. The structure for the recommendations for the Draft Communiqué is focused on three areas: 1. make student-centred learning a reality, 2. foster future teaching, and 3. strengthen Higher Education Institutional and Systems' Capacity to enhance Learning and Teaching. Another task was to collect good practices and tools. The Co-chairs of AG2 ask the Board for general feedback on the text and recommendations and on the position of the document within the Communiqué. The formulation of the document will be adjusted and focus more on digitalisation.

The Board expressed reservations as to the structure of the document and suggested that the recommendations should be separated from the report. The recommendations need to be more focused on what public authorities can do and to have a better balance between learning aspects (currently underrepresented) and teaching aspects. The examples part needs to be in a different document from the recommendations. It would be good to ask the other BFUG countries whether they want to add inspiring examples to the document. The final draft will be handed in prior to the Kyiv BFUG meeting.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_4\_3\_AG2*

#### 4.4 Coordination Group 1 on Global Policy Dialogue (CG1)

The Co-chair of CG1 on Global Policy Dialogue presented what the group had been working on in the last months. The group members have elaborated lists of regional and international organisations to be invited to the Bologna Global Policy Forum rating their importance to be invited from 1 to 3. The BFUG Secretariat was asked to first invite the organisations rated with 3 giving them a larger number of delegates and then the ones rated with 2. The organisations rated with 1 should be invited in case there is enough space. Six topics are proposed for the parallel sessions of the Bologna Global Policy Forum and the Draft Bologna Global Policy Statement has been sent to the Board.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_4\_4\_CG1*

#### 4.5 Working Group 1 on Monitoring (WG1) including the Task Force on fundamental values

The Co-chair of WG1 gave the Board an update on the work of WG1 and on the draft Bologna Progress Implementation Report for 2020. The task is to develop the report assessing the main developments in the EHEA since the Bologna Process began, including to what extent the mobility target from the Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve has been fulfilled. The 2020 report is focusing on main developments and trends in the EHEA as a whole, it makes use of existing data and has limited the collection of new data as far as possible and the narrative is focused on key changes over time. The report combines three types of information: qualitative indicators provided by the BFUG members, quantitative data from EUROSTAT and a narrative text on the main policy developments. The BFUG members have received drafts of the qualitative indicators for checking. Many countries have provided feedback and corrections, but a number of countries have not answered the specific questions addressed to them. Although this is a problem when it comes to finalising the analysis, overall the report is on track. WG1 will not provide specific recommendations for the Communiqué. No further WG1 meetings are planned and the draft report will be sent to the BFUG in time to prepare for a first discussion at the Kyiv BFUG meeting.

Concerning the task force on fundamental values, it has stuck closely to the fundamental values outlined in the Paris Communiqué. All the fundamental values are of equal importance, but the biggest challenge related to monitoring is academic freedom. For the remaining values some sort of monitoring is taking place. This is by no means sufficient, and further work needs to be done, but the focus in a first instance was on academic freedom. A common understanding of academic freedom – with a definition in an accompanying text – should be adopted by the Ministers in Rome. No changes were made to the report since the Helsinki BFUG meeting in November, as the Task Force at its last meeting agreed on the final report and on the fact that no changes will be made for the Kyiv BFUG meeting in March either, as no changes were requested by the BFUG. Whether a separate group on this topic should be established for the next work period has to be decided by the BFUG.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_4\_5\_WG1*

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_4\_5\_WG1\_Task Force*

It was decided that all groups – except from the BICG – will present the final version of the reports at the BFUG meeting LXIX in Kyiv on 4-5 March 2020.

## **5. Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum**

### 5.1 Report from the Drafting Committee (Draft 2020 Rome Communiqué)

The BFUG Vice-chair, in the capacity of the coordinator of the Drafting Committee, explained the various changes that had been made the day before in the Drafting Committee meeting and asked the Board for their input on some open points. What to put in the annexes was discussed, as annexes are adopted by the Ministers together with the Communiqué. Reports from the groups should be made available together with the Communiqué, but they will not be officially adopted by the ministers. If there is to be a distinction between core and key commitments it needs to be explained in the text. The term *community* was discussed as it



is not clear what it means in particular in relation to future commitments for 2030. It was suggested not to use this term as a new overarching concept but to explain it better, and keep the idea of involving the broader higher education community in further developments and implementation of the Bologna Process, suggesting concrete ways that this can be done. The Drafting Committee should be careful with terms like *peaceful Europe*, as this is not something that the BFUG can commit to. Concerning the part on mobility, as in the Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué 2009 the target of 20% physical mobility for 2020 was set and not reached, it was suggested to explicitly acknowledge it in the 2020 Communiqué but also to extend the commitment on mobility by considering other dimensions of international experience.

It was agreed that, on the discussed parts, the Board members should write concrete sentences and proposals to the Vice-chair in order for them to be integrated them into the Draft Communiqué before the Kyiv BFUG meeting.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_5\_1\_Draft 1xxx Communiqué*

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_5\_1\_Draft 1xxxx Communiqué*

## 5.2 Tentative Programme for the Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference

The BFUG Secretariat presented the general elements of the programme for the Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference, which will take place at *La Nuvola*. On Tuesday, 23 June, evening an opening ceremony with a welcome cocktail and concert will take place organised by Italy. On Wednesday, 24 June, there will be a BFUG meeting from 8:00 to 9:00 and the Ministerial Conference will begin at 9:15 with welcome speeches by the Italian authorities. There will be a keynote speech and the Rome Communiqué will be read out loud in order to give all the EHEA Ministers the possibility to comment on the Communiqué stating (3 minutes each) which part is the most important for their national context. In the afternoon, the Bologna Global Policy Forum will be opened by two keynote speeches and then the participants will be divided into four thematic parallel sessions, on the basis of what CG1 on Global Policy Dialogue has proposed. At the end there will be a plenary session with reports from the parallel sessions and the Bologna Global Policy Statement will be read and adopted. In the evening there will be a Gala dinner at the *Palazzo dei Congressi*.

On Thursday, 25 June, there will be a plenary session with a keynote speech and the EHEA Ministers will again have the possibility to speak to each other for two minutes. The Rome Communiqué will be adopted, and the Ministerial Conference will close with lunch.

The Board commented that there should be a thematic focus for the Conference, for instance fundamental values, and a repetition of all the Ministers giving statements on both days should be avoided and given space to the Consultative members to address the conference. The BFUG Co-chairs asked about the envisaged role for the Croatian and Ukrainian ministers. They would like to have an active role as the two countries currently co-chairing the BFUG. External observers will be welcome, but their registration needs to be confirmed by the BFUG Secretariat. It was proposed to inform the Ministers on the results of the Bologna Process Researchers Conference and on the publication *Bologna with student eyes*, as done in the previous Ministerial Conferences. As CG1 on Global Policy

Dialogue proposed six topics, they asked clarification on whether there might be space for six parallel sessions instead of four. More information will follow in the Kyiv BFUG meeting. The Secretariat was asked to prepare and present a draft Agenda of the Ministerial Conference for the Kyiv BFUG meeting.

### 5.3 Bologna Global Policy Forum (and draft Bologna Global Policy Statement)

The BFUG Vice-chair introduced the discussion on Draft 1 of the Bologna Global Policy Statement by saying that the comments on the Statement were positive and that the only objection was on the word *Bologna*, which needs to stay to clarify the context of the Statement.

There was a remark on who commits to what, as everybody is included in the first sentence – which on the one hand makes the Statement inclusive – but, on the other hand makes it difficult to identify concrete commitments and responsibilities. The topic of sustainable development should be more prominent in the statement and the concept of democracy should be added, as it was to the statement from the Global Education Meeting (UNESCO) in Brussels in December 2018. The sentence “[...] organizations and institutions interested in aligning their systems or parts of them with the Bologna Process reforms [...]” needs to be rephrased as other parts of the world are developing their own systems and there is the risk of a negative connotation with this formulation.

The status of Bologna Global Policy Partner was discussed, in particular as regards the added value of this label and organization of a selection process. The Coordination Group will continue to work on this to find a solution and propose a way to define the concept and how to recognize the desire of some non-EHEA countries to manifest their connection with the Bologna Process.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_5\_3\_Draft 1 Bologna Global Policy Statement*

### 5.4 Other events back to back with the Ministerial Conference

On 25 and 26 June 2020 the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research together with the BFUG Secretariat will organise a Global Summit on Higher Education in Rome for higher education stakeholders. There will be keynotes and workshops on different topics on the basis of what was sent to the BFUG Secretariat after the call via e-mail sent on 1 October 2019 to the Consultative Members and the European Commission.

Some Board members asked for a concrete list of workshops and more practical information that will be sent to them via e-mail as soon as possible. More information will be given during the Kyiv BFUG meeting.

## **6. Application from the Republic of San Marino to join the EHEA**

A follow-up on the application of San Marino to join the EHEA was given by the Croatian Co-chair. It was proposed to designate Maija Innola from Finland as the Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Group established at the Helsinki BFUG meeting in November 2019. No objections were



raised and the Board approved the appointment. Moreover, the Council of Europe commented that, in relation to three possible options presented in the background document, there might be a fourth option for the recommendation to the BFUG: the admission of San Marino with a Roadmap.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_6\_San\_Marino*

## **7. Draft agenda for the BFUG Meeting in Kyiv (4-5 March 2020)**

The Ukrainian Co-chair presented the draft agenda for the Kyiv BFUG meeting and asked the Board for feedback.

As the Board has decided to have the final reports of the groups ready for the Kyiv meeting, agenda item 5. *Updates and draft recommendations from the AGs, CGs and WG1* should be called *Final reports* instead of *Updates* and should be given much more time.

Concerning the decision of the BFUG to avoid one country having the Vice-chair and BFUG Co-chairmanship at the same time, an agenda item on Governance and Working methods in the Future should be added to the agenda and a background paper should be provided on the different options.

A short discussion on micro-credentials should be put on the agenda and a background paper should be provided in order to facilitate discussions.

A report from the EHEA Researchers Conference in Bucharest on January 2020 was proposed.

ESU asked for an update on the roadmap of Belarus. The Vice-chair answered that she would follow up on this and would let the Board know before putting this on the BFUG agenda.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_68\_7\_BFUG\_Kyiv\_agenda*

## **8. AOB**

No AOB was discussed and the meeting was closed by the BFUG Co-chairs thanking everybody for the attendance and the efficient meeting.