

Progress report of Task Force on monitoring academic values

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1 Background

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 now agreed. The known participants in the Task Force and the Secretariat have also been consulted on a date for the first meeting, and 25 March in Brussels has now been agreed.

2 Questions to the Board

2.1 The Task Force preparatory meeting developed guidelines for the work of the Task Force (attached). Are these guidelines clear, and can they be circulated to BFUG for information?

2.2 While WG1 co chairs are satisfied with the current composition of the Task Force, it is also important to be transparent in taking forward this work. Other BFUG members (countries and/or organisations) should therefore be informed about the Task Force and given the opportunity to join if they so wish. At the same time, it would not be ideal for the membership of such a sub group to expand beyond the size of the parent Working Group. What kind of message or invitation should be sent out to the BFUG following the Board meeting?