

Governance and thematic priorities after 2020

BFUG Board meeting
Skopje, 12 February 2019

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Survey sent on behalf of the BFUG Co-chairs **Austria** and **Switzerland** in **October 2018** to BFUG Members and Consultative members:

- <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/63a9891e-b9dc-7ef0-5fec-7ef5ddb9a288>

39 answers

31 countries + the European Commission
8 Consultative members

Priorities to pursue
in the next period

A. Priorities post-2020

What priorities should we pursue in the next decade?

The 6 following topics have been identified by the WG 2015-18 on new Goals

- Promoting active and responsible citizens;
- Linking EHEA and ERA;
- Using digital technologies;
- Supporting students from non-traditional backgrounds;
- Enhancing teacher support;
- Improving professional recognition

You may propose other topics as well.

In order of priorities: the **5 first priorities were all seen as important**; only «professional recongnition» seemd to have less support.

Other priorities mentionned more than once:

- Implementation of the 3 key commitments
- Fundamental/core values
- Innovation in Learning and Teaching
- Ensure coherence with the European Education Area
- Mobility

OTHER PROPOSED TOPICS 1/2

- **Implementation of key commitments** – looking beyond system level at institutional level
- **Implementation of the 3 BFUG key commitments**
- **Results of peer groups** taken in the implementation report
- **Strengthening of core values** like academic freedom, institutional autonomy, student and staff representation
- Thematic sessions on **academic freedom**
- **Talent development**
- **Following students during their career** in HE and at the moment of graduation
- **Flexible learning pathways**
- **Promotion of competence-oriented learning**
- Promoting the **continuous development of students-centred and innovative learning**
- Assuring an efficient **interlink between Bologna Process and EHEA**
- **Research reinforcement** by workshops and meetings between **EHEA and ERA**

OTHER PROPOSED TOPICS 2/2

- Rethinking **links between education and research**
- **Supporting international dual-degree programs**
- **Promotion of mobility**
- **Internationalisation of HE**
- **Qualifications frameworks**
- **Life-long learning**
- **Automatic recognition**
- **More active role of teachers in HE**
- **Funding**
- **Substantial core public investment in HE and research**
- **Real involvement of business community in HE**



13% of countries/institutions had no further proposals
ITALIAN **BFUG** SECRETARIAT
2018-2020

QUANTITATIVE GOALS FOR 2030 1/2

- There is **some scepticism** towards quantitative goals.
- Proposal to have rather **qualitative targets and implementation goals**. Tricky to set those quantitative goals.
- **Reaffirming mobility target** and complementarity with European Commission goals.
- **Discussion** should be done **within the WG**

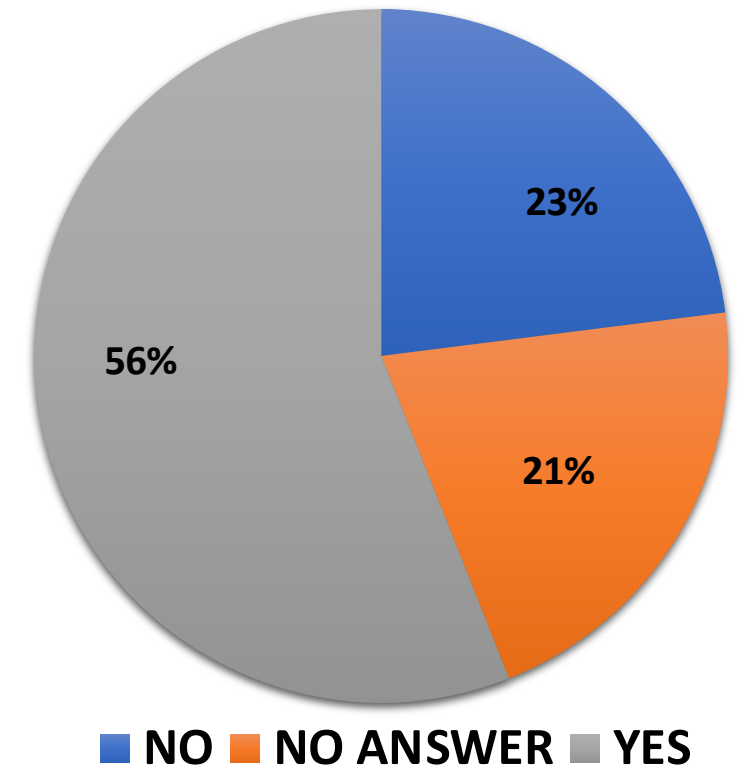
QUANTITATIVE GOALS FOR 2030 2/2

Other comments:

- Monitoring of the implementation of all targets
- Understanding obstacles
- Results of AGs on Social Dimension as well as on L&T
- Defining more tangible indicators
- Coordination with what has been discussed at EU level
- Defining an incoming mobility benchmark
- Amount of countries with a functional National Access Plan
- Granting students' access to innovative learning methods
- Full implementation of the European Charter and Code for Researchers
- Reaffirming mobility targets

SHOULD THE WORKING METHODS BE MODIFIED?

- More **evidence-based** policy making style
- Simplified and **less bureaucratic** structure
- **Efficiency, transparency and democratic** methods
- **Active involvement of stakeholders** in the drafting of documents and more interaction between them
- A more **durable arrangement**
- Revival of «**Bologna seminars**» open to academic communities
- **Description of the working structures** within the EHEA website
- **Designated online areas** for working and advisory groups



Comment on the graph: some require minor changes other more in-depth

CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON HOW TO OPTIMIZE THE EHEA GOVERNANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE BFUG BOARD

- **In general satisfied with the Board:** 66% of countries/consultative members had no proposals (good way to involve the co-chairs)
- **Smaller BOARD** to ensure efficient discussions
- To **facilitate handovers** → the incoming vice-chairing should always participate in the last Board before a Ministerial Conference and the outgoing vice-chairing should participate in the first Board after a Ministerial Conference
- A **more active role** in the content-related issues and a **more transparent work**
- **Better Board-Secretariat communication** before the meetings and Board's minutes made available prior to the BFUG meetings
- **Combination of functions** and tasks of Board and Secretariat
- **Inclusion of ETUCE/EI** members as representatives of teachers/professors/researchers
- In specific topics/issues the Board could have **decision making power**

CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON HOW TO OPTIMIZE THE EHEA GOVERNANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE BFUG SECRETARIAT

- **In general satisfied with the Secretariat:** 61% of countries/consultative members had no proposals
- Establishment of an **international, professional and permanent Secretariat**, financed by Member States, or a **core staff for at least two periods in order to ensure smooth implementation of tasks**
- **A more neutral, rather than country-centred view** for the host country/vice-chair representative
- **Involvement of different countries/nationalities**
- It would be of interest to **analyse the issues involved in establishing EQAR** and its Secretariat as an NGO operating as a task force
- **Cost-sharing** among members
- **More active role** in information-sharing and up-to-date communication about the EHEA

CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON HOW TO OPTIMIZE THE EHEA GOVERNANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE BFUG

- **Quite many proposals for improvement:** 58% of countries/consultative members had no proposals
- **Discussion and information-sharing** between various groups/stakeholders
- The BFUG must remain the **decision maker** before any proposal to the EHEA Ministers
- BFUG work programmes should **immediately** start following the Ministerial conference
- **Full and durable involvement** of decision-makers
- Focus on **content-related** rather than on procedural issues
- **Clear decisions** and **clearly summarized actions** at the end of each meeting
- **Encouragement of less active members** in the process
- Mandate **to take positions and decisions on behalf of one's ministry**, stressing the relationship between BFUG delegations and the political leadership of their Ministries/organizations
- **Equal treatment** among all stakeholders, Member States and various organisations

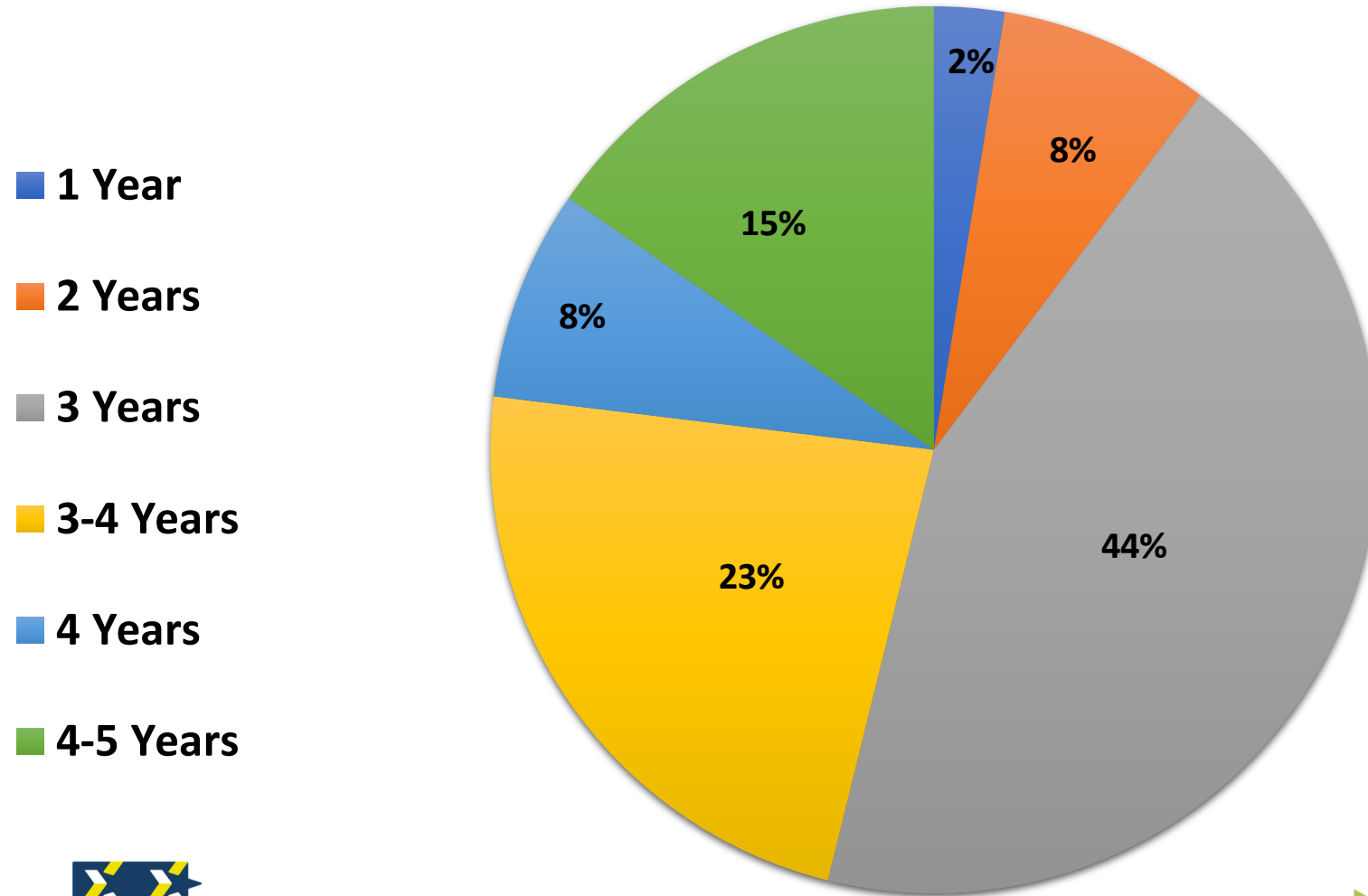
CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON HOW TO OPTIMIZE THE EHEA GOVERNANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE CHAIRING ARRANGEMENT

- **In general very satisfied with the chairing arrangement:** 77% of countries/consultative members had no proposals. A lot of support for this format (valuable, really good, optimal, etc .)
- **Chairs attendance at the BFUG** as a pre-requisite to act as Co-Chair
- **Vice-chairs** are perhaps not needed
- **Power-concentrating** role of the vice-chairing
- **Longer mandate** of Chairs, for the sake of **continuity**
- A **permanent third membership** instead of the vice-chair, not open for representatives from countries co-chairing during the same period or organizing the EHEA conference in the same period

CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON HOW TO OPTIMIZE THE EHEA GOVERNANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE BOLOGNA POLICY FORUM

- 77% of countries/consultative members had no proposals
- **Doubtful outcomes:** too narrow or too large selection of countries
- A follow-up with **ongoing political dialogue** and **increased cooperation between EHEA and non-EHEA**
- **Lack of resources and of a permanent Secretariat following up the actions proposed** makes it hard to achieve tangible results
- Platform for **equal and respectful exchange** on higher education challenges between global macro-regions
- **Involvement of professors and researchers** representatives to the BPF
- **Declaration of BPF goals**
- **Involvement of representatives from EHEA Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs**, as well as Embassies, in preparing BPF
- **Earlier selection of BPF themes**, identifying issues of clear interest to both EHEA and non-EHEA Ministries

HOW OFTEN SHOULD THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE BE HELD?



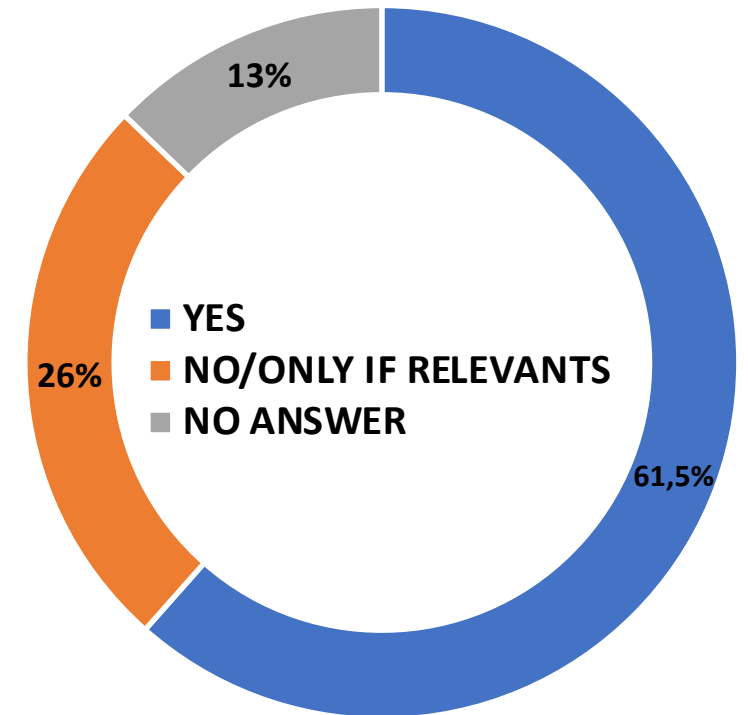
SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO CONNECT MORE FRUITFULLY WITH HIGHER EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS

- **EUA, EI , ETUCE** and **EURASHE** might play an important role
- Re-invigoration of the **Bologna Promoters/Experts** - Bologna Expert teams in each country, as a means to involve higher education practitioners
- **Active involvement** of higher education **researchers** in the discussion
- **Working sessions** for BFUG Members, as well as HEI conferences, workshops for experience sharing
- **Exchange of best practices**, remove existing barriers in educational procedures
- **Thematic groups largely attended by practitioners** who could come up with recommendations
- Close work with **organizations representing different HE stakeholders**
- **Newsletter** to all relevant stakeholders
- Member States could appoint **education practitioners in different groups**

9% of countries/consultative members had no proposals

MORE “BOLOGNA EVENTS” BETWEEN THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES?

- Good idea for **visibility** and **understanding** of the Bologna Process
- **Bilateral and multilateral peer learning activities**, especially with relevant stakeholders → added value
- Ensuring that they are **quality events**
- **Regular hearings of Ministries** on the progression of the Bologna reforms
- A **yearly Bologna event** in each member country
- *“In order to trust you need to understand, and in order to understand you need to discuss. Bologna events are good opportunities for such discussions”*
- **Clear guidelines/criteria** on which the event can be considered a «Bologna event»



SUGGESTION ON HOW TO FORMALLY INCLUDE OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN THE BOLOGNA PROCESS

- **Events** targeted at the **national/regional level**
- **Networking** and **newsletters**
- **Representation of employers** to a greater extent
- Establishment of a **category of Associate Membership** of no more than 10 members
- Invitation of certain stakeholders as “**advisory members**” in **specific BFUG WGs**
- **Diversity** of profiles for the experts
- Kazakhstan as a Central Asian **hub to disseminate successful experience** in the region
- **Regular involvement** of a representative of the **ENIC-NARIC network**, given the importance of recognition issues
- Establishment of **2 additional seats for university networks and students organizations**
- Publishing of an **open call** to ensure participation of other relevant organizations

ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR THEMATIC AND PROCEDURAL INNOVATIONS AFTER 2020

- Focus on **communication strategy** of the entire Bologna Process
- **Equal opportunities for refugees/applicants** for asylum concerning their access to HE
- **Promotion of regional cooperation**: inter-Balkan, Mediterranean
- Establishment of a **competition** between Member States on the Bologna reforms implementation, awarding the successful ones
- Introduction of issues of **recognition of non-formal education** learning outcomes
- Concrete **interaction** between **EHEA members/partners and Universities**
- Development of **students' entrepreneurship programmes** at the European level
- Greater **attention to Art and Philosophy areas**
- Greater focus on **the most relevant issues**

THANK YOU

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