



Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

Fourth meeting, Online*
24 October 2022
09.30-13.00h (CET)

Minutes

List of participants

Country	Name	Surname
Albania (Co-Chair)	Linda	Pustina
Austria	Michael	Roither
Belgium Flemish Community (Co-Chair)	Magalie	Soenen
Belgium French Community	Caroline	Hollela
Cyprus	Kyriacos	Charalambous
EI - ETUCE	Hanna	Tanskanen
ENQA	Elena	Cirlan
EAC	Anna	Cragt
ESU	Tor Marni	Weihe
European University Association (EUA)	Elizabeth	Colucci
European Commission (Co-Chair)	Fiorella	Perotto
France	Mathieu	Musquin
Germany	Tim	Maschuw
Holy See	Melanie	Rosenbaum
Ireland	Orla	Lynch
Italy (Co-Chair)	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
Italy	Luca	Lantero
Italy	Vera	Lucke
Kazakhstan	Aitzhan	Kulumzhanova
Kazakhstan	Indira	Abilmazhinova
Malta	Jon	Vercellono
Malta	Valerie	Attard
The Netherlands	Jenneke	Lokhoff
Romania	Madalina	Matei
United Kingdom	Ella	Ritchie
UNESCO	Andreas	Snildal
Vice Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Guest)	Kuanysh	Yergaliyev
BFUG Secretariat	Enis	Fita
BFUG Secretariat	Patrik	Bardhi
BFUG Secretariat	Klodiana	Thartori

Spain did not attend the meeting.

1. Welcoming remarks by the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the 2021-2024 working period. A tour de table was held, during which all of the participants introduced themselves and explained

their respective roles within the institutions they represented. The minutes of the third meeting were approved. The agenda was adopted without change.

Magalie Soenen (Co-Chair) emphasized that the aim of this meeting was to discuss the progress made by the subgroups thus far, and plan the actions to be taken in the upcoming year. Following this, Ms. Soenen gave a presentation of the CG report that was given at the BFUG Board meeting LXXXI¹. The functional and regional subgroups within the CG were described and the dates of forthcoming meetings indicated. Moreover, the agendas, activities, themes and conclusions of the meetings of the regional subgroups were also presented.

For more detailed information, please see: [CG on GPD Update - BFUG Board Meeting LXXXI](#)

2. Presentation of CAHEA (Central Asian Higher Education Area) & discussion on possible cooperation

Kuanysh Yergaliyev (Kazakhstan) gave an overview of the Central Asian Higher Education Area. In order to further higher education, establish a framework for qualifications, and promote the use of ECTS in the region, Mr. Yergaliyev mentioned the Tuning Central Asia project (TuCAHEA), which was implemented in Kazakhstan and the other four Central Asian countries from 2012 to 2016 (www.tucahea.org), with the aim to contribute to the development of the higher education area of Central Asia in a way compatible with the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Mr. Yergaliyev emphasized the project's outcomes, stating that TuCAHEA paved the way for the creation of NQFs and the application of ECTS in the area.

The Central Asian Education Platform (CAEP) project also supported the programs of the Central Asian countries aimed at enhancing the competitiveness and productivity of the national economies, as well as the potential for sustainable growth in the area. The project's results were outlined, with an emphasis on improved dialogue between Europe and Central Asia in the field of education, enhanced quality of cross-national learning, exchange of best practices, introduction of an evidence-based policy approach, among others.

Mr. Yergaliyev gave an update on the conclusions of the meetings of the Ministers of Education from the Central Asian countries and the EU member states, emphasizing the strengthening of mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of education within the framework of the EU-Central Asia Strategy and spreading the ideas of the Bologna Process throughout the Central Asian region as the key objectives. It was emphasized that the Astana Declaration², was signed at the second meeting. Further, the Turkestan Declaration³ was adopted at the 2021 Conference of Central Asian Education Ministers, and the Central Asian Higher Education Area (CAHEA) was created. More recently, at the 2022 Central Asian University Rectors' Forum, the Memorandum on the Establishment of the Alliance of Central Asian Universities was signed which contributes to the partnership in the field of education and science, expansion of international educational and scientific cooperation of researchers and teachers between the universities of the Alliance in order to improve the quality, inclusiveness and competitiveness of higher education in Central Asia. Mr. Yergaliyev informed that 38 bilateral agreements between universities of Kazakhstan,

¹ Eighty-first Bologna Follow-Up Group Board meeting, hosted by Kazakhstan (Astana), 5 October 2022.

² The main objectives of the Astana Declaration include strengthening of mutual cooperation on internationalization issues in education, capacity building and mobility in higher education, recognition of non-formal and informal learning, and establishment of reforms in vocational education and training to strengthen links between business and the labor market.

³ The main objectives in the Turkestan Declaration include development of comparable National Qualifications Frameworks; optimization of procedures for the recognition of documents on education, academic degrees and titles; implementation of comparable credits on the type of ECTS; supporting the regional mobility of students and academic staff by ensuring the recognition and crediting of periods of study; ensuring the quality of education in order to develop comparable criteria and methodologies; cooperation in the development of educational programs, joint programs of study, practical training and research; providing targeted grants for citizens of countries that have acceded to this Declaration to study in HEIs.

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were signed, and recommendations of Central Asian Rectors and the Work Plan of the Alliance of Central Asian Universities were adopted.

A summary of the organizational structure and functions of the CAHEA was provided, followed by an outline of the joint statement on the outcomes of the Rectors' Conference with participation of representatives of the BFUG, ministries, and universities of Central Asia, which was held on October 6, 2022, in Astana. The objective was to develop unified approaches to quality assurance of higher education based on European Standards and guidelines for quality Assurance (ESG), create an executive body (Bureau of the Central Asian Higher Education Area on parity terms) to function on the basis of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and work toward mutual recognition mechanisms for educational documents within the Central Asian Higher Education Area. Mr. Yergaliyev informed on the next steps, which comprised further work on promotion of the CAHEA, along with collaboration in the EHEA Ministers Conference and Global Policy Forum 2024. The project was received with praise from the CG members.

For more detailed information, please see: [Presentation of the CAHEA \(Central Asian Higher Education Area\) & discussion on possible cooperation](#)

3. State of play of the initiatives taken by the three regional subgroups

The Co-Chairs informed on the state-of-play and initiatives already undertaken in each of the following subgroups:

3.1. Americas subgroup

Ann Katherine Isaacs (Co-Chair) provided an overview of the subgroup's progress, mentioning the intention to create a discussion model akin to the one that the 'Africa subgroup' has been working on. The intended methods were described, including the organization of significant in-person meetings and initiatives to provide the groundwork for more frequent communication with other parts of the world. One intention is to take part in conferences organised by others that can serve as forums for discussion and dialogue useful for completing both tasks - informing about the EHEA, and also listening to what others have to say and to find out what they are interested in discussing. The policy brief prepared for the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference in Barcelona in May, that can be viewed on the UNESCO World Higher Education 2022 website, was also identified as a highly helpful resource for connecting with others. Additionally, Ms. Isaacs mentioned that she represented the subgroup at the "Global Dialogue on Micro-Credentials": Initiatives and Perspectives on Small Learning Units from Around the World DAAD Bologna Hub event on June 23, coordinating the session devoted to the Americas. In addition, participation in a hybrid colloquium between CG/EHEA and Mercosur on 5 December 2022 in Montevideo on the topic "Enhancing Global Policy Dialogue on Higher Education" is being organised.

Another significant step is the proposed participation in the CHEA (US Council of Accreditation organizations) Annual Conference, which will be held in Washington, DC, on 23 January 2023. This conference was described as an excellent opportunity to develop global discourse about diversity in a common framework and as offering the subgroup a possibility of dialogue with a large audience. On that topic, Ms. Isaacs said that a proposal to organize a session in this conference has been submitted. The proposed panel at the CHEA Annual Conference would include four speakers: Orla Lynch (Ireland); Ann Katherine Isaacs (Co-Chair); Elena Cirlan (ENQA); and Luca Lantero (CIMEA). It was indicated that the goal of this involvement would be to engage in a shared discussion with other regions, rather than to pursue a particular agenda. Through the panel discussion, it is intended first to present the EHEA and its tools, in such a way that their usefulness for North America might be perceived; after this such themes higher

education's role in reaching the SDGs, inclusion, innovation, new teaching techniques, recognition, and quality will be presented, with a view to stimulating dialogue and inter-regional communication. As the proposed session has been accepted by the CHEA, the group is now attempting to determine the specifics of funding.

Ms. Isaacs (Co-Chair) said that the subgroup has developed a text document to present the CG and its aims. This document can be adapted and used by all the subgroups.

3.2. Africa subgroup

Fiorella Perotto (Co-Chair) gave a summary of the activities of the 'Africa subgroup' and the progress so far. The subgroup agreed on the importance to have mutual exchange of knowledge of good practice and visions between the EHEA and Africa on topics of common interest. It has therefore agreed to organise a number of events on academic recognition, involving EHEA and African decision-makers and stakeholders from responsible regional and national European and African organisations. The first of these events "(EHEA-Africa Conversations") will take place online around the 15 December 2022 and will focus on instruments, tools, and practices, with regard to student (credit and diploma) mobility. The detailed content is currently being finalized.

The aims include identifying the benefits of academic recognition from the perspective of African countries, including the development of qualifications frameworks, and exploring perspectives changes.

The sub-group's suggestions on the future AU-EU innovation agenda, have been conveyed to the responsible services of the EU Commission and will feed into the results of a wider stakeholder consultation, with a view to the adoption of the Agenda in June 2023.

3.3. Asia subgroup

Magalie Soenen (Co-Chair) provided a summary of the subgroup's activities. She mentioned the Conference of Central Asian Ministers of Education «Central Asian Higher Educational Area: regional cooperation, national reforms», which took place on 18 June 2022, in which two CG Co-Chairs participated and where the expansion of the Bologna Process in the Central Asian Countries was discussed, as well as trends in the development of higher education in the Bologna Process. In addition, the EU-SHARE conference on micro-credentials, which took place in July 2022 in Bangkok was highlighted. At this conference the European viewpoint on micro-credentials was presented and discussed by one CG Co-chair and several Asia subgroup members.

The ASEM process is resuming and the ISOM meeting, scheduled for November 24–25, will formalize form an opportunity to look for collaboration with the CG on GPD and find synergies between the Bologna and ASEM education processes. Additionally, it was noted that Belgium Flemish Community will host an EHEA and ASEM peer-learning activity (PLA) on inclusive mobility in the spring of 2023.

Furthermore, the In-Global project estimates that some hybrid webinars will also be held, along with regional events that will be planned in 2023 in advance of the Ministerial Conference in 2024.

4. Draft work plan: next activities, discussion, suggestions, timeline

Magalie Soenen (Co-Chair) presented the draft roadmap highlighting that the document can be adapted based on the current necessities and priorities. She emphasized that in view of the Tirana Global Policy Forum (GPF), the CG GPD's functional subgroups are responsible for two critical tasks, namely developing the Statement and organizing the Global Policy Forum (GPF).

The drafting committee subgroup will start its work in January 2023. The current membership of the two sub-groups (for the organization of the Global Policy Forum and for drafting the statement) was also shared: this can be amended if there are further expressions of interest.

5. Decisions on next tasks, next meetings, deadlines

The aim of this point on the agenda was to construct the CG agenda for 2023. Updates on the regional events were presented, followed by discussions mainly on funding and logistics. Although there is no funding planned for the organization of events, funding is anticipated for travel to regional activities. The Co-Chairs will attempt to clarify the financial rules and to ensure that there is support for the planned activities. The necessity of setting up also physical gatherings with representatives from all other regions, including non-EHEA nations, was underlined.

The next meeting is planned to be held online in January 2023, as per the indication in the roadmap, with the exact date to be agreed via a doodle poll. It was agreed that presentations would be shared with all CG members upon finalization of the meeting. No other business was raised and the CG on GPD meeting was concluded with thanks to the Co-Chairs for the well-organized meeting.