



EHEAROME2020

Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

FINAL REPORT



EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area



bologna
process



ITALIAN **BFUG** SECRETARIAT
2018-2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Coordination Group (CGI) on Global Policy Dialogue was instituted by the Bologna Follow Up Group (BFUG) at the Vienna meeting in fall 2018 on the basis of a proposal¹ formulated by the BFUG Vice-Chair about how to follow the decisions and meet the expectations expressed in the Paris Ministerial Communiqué² and the Statement³ by the 2018 Paris Bologna Policy Forum. It was proposed to create a small and agile 'coordination' group of 4 to 6 members in order to work quickly, in view of the short time until the planned June 2020 Rome EHEA Ministerial Conference, and to further develop and put into practice the ideas proposed by the BFUG Advisory Group 1 on International Cooperation from the 2015-2018 work period.

In the event, many countries and partners wanted to participate, and so the final composition of the CGI comprised 11 country members and five organizations.

The remit of the Group was twofold: on the one hand to organize the Global Policy Forum (GPF), including the Statement, and on the other hand to look at how to strengthen the EHEA's capacity for on-going dialogue (Global Policy Dialogue), attempting to overcome the intermittent character that has characterized it until now.

In order to accomplish these objectives the CGI held a number of meetings (in both physical and virtual formats) and on-line consultations. It also organized an event for cultural attachés of the numerous Embassies based in Rome, and, with the Italian Ministry of Universities, Education and Research, a soirée for the Ambassadors themselves. These events were geared to building awareness about the ambitious plans for the Rome Ministerial Conference and to gather ideas about the themes that would be of greatest interest to the countries and macro-regions involved in the Global Policy Forum.

The CGI members subsequently created informal 'subgroups' under the CGI umbrella in order to prepare for CGI meetings and to develop the relevant documents and proposals more efficiently. First, two 'subgroups' were formed, each comprising roughly half of the CGI members: one responsible for elaborating the GPF Statement; the other tasked with creating the lists of countries and organizations to be invited to the Rome Forum. Later, the CGI members also formed a second set of smaller 'subgroups', one for each of the 6 topics which it had elaborated for the planned parallel sessions to be held during the Forum in Rome.

Unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic overwhelmed all plans. The Ministerial Conference itself, and the Global Policy Forum, initially planned for June 2020, were postponed to November 2020. Later, when it became clear that the Ministerial Conference would have to be held entirely on-line, it was determined that the Global Policy Forum could not take place as foreseen. The final decision was to have a short afternoon session on the 'global dimension' during the Ministerial Conference, but that the Forum itself must be postponed. Alternative options were discussed, including holding a special Global Policy Forum, integrated with or back to back to a Global Summit planned to be held by Italy in 2021, or else simply postponing the Global Policy Forum to 2024, and holding it in connection to the next 2024 EHEA Ministerial Conference. Although some pointed to the importance of holding the Global Policy Forum in connection with the Rome Ministerial Conference, with the discussion and adoption of a GPF Statement, this proved not feasible in the completely virtual format. The time slot in November will be used to hold a brief panel session, in order to recognize the importance of global engagement for the EHEA and other macro-regions, and to prepare the ground for further initiatives in the next work period.

In sum, the CGI worked carefully in order to prepare and hold an important and meaningful GPF, but as a consequence of the ongoing pandemic, other solutions had to be found, and they entail drastic changes in plans.

¹ http://www.ehea.info/Upload/document/bfug/63/BFUG_AU_CH_63_11_4_Global_Policy_Dialogue.pdf

² http://www.ehea.info/Upload/document/ministerial_declarations/EHEAParis2018_Communique_final_952771.pdf

³ http://www.ehea.info/media.ehea.info/file/2018_Paris/36/8/BPFStatement_with_Annex_958368.pdf

INTRODUCTION

2.1 MANDATE AND AIMS

The overarching aim of the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue was to develop, as mandated in the 2018 Paris Communiqué, regular 'dialogue' with 'other regions and international organizations' on matters of common concern and relevance for higher education with respect to which cooperation and sharing of ideas and policies can be beneficial, and to prepare and conduct the Global Policy Forum in June 2020. The CGI has also formulated a Draft GPF Statement, under the aegis of the Drafting Committee for the Rome 2020 Conference.

2.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the group were broad. First, the group had to build on what had already been accomplished by BFUG Advisory Group¹ in the preparation of the 2018 Paris Ministerial Conference, rapidly to further develop dialogue with other regions and organizations on matters relevant for Higher Education, as mandated by the Ministers in Paris. Furthermore the group had to respond positively to the political will expressed by the Paris Bologna Policy Forum for more constant and meaningful "interregional dialogue" and to propose and promote the organization of international and interregional events or, when appropriate, the designation of events already planned, as contributing to 'Global Policy Dialogue (GPD)'.

The group also had to prepare and support the organization of a successful 'Global Policy Forum (GPF)', to be held on the occasion of the 2020 Ministerial Conference in Rome, laying the foundations for continuation in the post 2020 period.

In actuality, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the group was forced to change its plans, and to organize a brief global session on 19 November 2020, in conjunction with the on-line Rome Ministerial Conference.

2.3 CONTEXT

The mandate of the CGI is linked to the references in the Paris Communiqué:

"We commit to developing the role of higher education in securing a sustainable future for our planet and our societies and to finding ways in which we, as EHEA Ministers, can contribute to meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at global, European and national levels."

"As a follow-up to the Bologna Policy Forum, we mandate the BFUG to enter into a global policy dialogue to improve regular cooperation with other regions and international organisations. This dialogue should focus on promoting mutual learning and joint initiatives on issues of common interest, such as social inclusion and the wider role of higher education."

The CGI is also linked to references in the Bologna Policy Forum Statement adopted during the Paris meeting:

"We, the Ministers, commit to supporting this ongoing, successful interregional dialogue on issues of common concern amongst policy makers, stakeholder organisations, students, staff and higher education institutions. We propose the establishment of a Global Working Group in the next 2018 -2020 Bologna work programme to take this agenda forward and we invite countries to express their interest to hold high level workshops on a yearly basis to continue the dialogue on social inclusion and the wider role of higher education."

2.4 METHODOLOGY & ORGANISATION

The Coordination Group (or CGI) was intended to be a very small operational group, not a broad 'advisory group'. However, 16 members expressed interest in joining. They were all committed, expert and prepared to collaborate proactively in the CGI.

The CGI had 5 meetings between its setup and June 2020. Because of the postponement of the Rome Ministerial Conference, two further virtual meetings were needed and took place in autumn 2020 in order to develop new plans according to the decisions of the BFUG on the format and timing of the possible Forum.

To address its objectives during the timeframe initially foreseen, the CGI created two informal 'subgroups': one to identify countries and organizations with which to collaborate, eventually to be invited to Rome; the other to draft the Global Policy Statement to be agreed upon in Rome, in collaboration with the BFUG Drafting Committee that was preparing the draft of the future Ministerial Communiqué.

Minutes of the Coordination Group meetings and updates on its activities have been made available online by the BFUG Secretariat on the EHEA website. The CGI co-chairs have also regularly reported to the BFUG board and the BFUG at each Board and BFUG meeting.



ACTIVITIES, FINDINGS, RESULTS

3

The remit of the Coordination Group was to promote more constant dialogue with other parts of the world (countries, macro-regions, organizations) on matters of common interest and concern relating to higher education. To accomplish this, the CGI attempted to reestablish contact with all the countries invited to the Paris Bologna Policy Forum, whether or not they attended, and with all other countries, as potentially interested and willing to share ideas about their interests and priorities. Letters to ministers were sent around the world, informing about the plans and ambitions for dialogue and for the Rome Forum.

The CGI found that the most useful links could be achieved with regional and world organizations, and focusing on countries that have a relevant role in the macro-regions. The CGI proposed sending a regular newsletter on what is happening in the Bologna Process (BP), designed in such a way as to be appropriate both for the EHEA and for the world higher education community in general. This would be useful, not only for international partners, but also for use in the countries within the EHEA, in order to create more awareness among all stakeholders (especially within the HEIs) on the state of play within 'Bologna', as many persons do not link current developments in HE to the BP anymore. The CGI was informed by the BFUG Secretariat that for such a newsletter to be implemented a specific action plan should be proposed by the BFUG. This proposal could help to implement the request for the post 2020 work period, in line with the current draft Rome Communiqué: to organize and carry out various initiatives and events in order to strengthen dialogue, visibility and the spread of information about the EHEA in its member countries and beyond.

A concrete initiative to raise the visibility of the EHEA and its plans for the Global Policy Forum was undertaken in Rome during the week of the 'Festival of Diplomacy' (16 to 25 October 2019). On 22 October, the CGI, in collaboration with the EU Representation in Rome and the Italian Ministry of Education Universities and Research, organised a meeting for the technical (culture and education) attachés of all the embassies present in Rome (139), and a 'soirée' for the Ambassadors, to present and discuss the Global Policy Forum and identify the topics the Forum might most usefully address.

A flyer on the Bologna Process and the Global Policy Dialogue was distributed during both events. In addition to the CGI members, about 30 persons from 25 other countries attended the meeting with the technical attachés. Several international organizations including the International Association of Universities were also represented. A general evaluation indicated that the intention and plan, as well as the presentations and the panel were useful: in fact the discussion yielded a number of good ideas about the points to focus on in the GPF. It proved however difficult to attract the number of people we expected during the diplomacy week, because there turned out to be many other significant activities organised during the same days and even during the same time slot. About 100 persons, however, were present at the soirée. There were numerous individual contacts between the co-chairs of the CGI and representatives of many significant non-EHEA countries.

During the events in October 2019 in Rome, ideas and proposals were gathered and some topics formulated for the GPF. These were further discussed and elaborated by the members of the CG1, proposed to and accepted by the BFUG.

As an umbrella topic the focus was planned to be on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Some keynote speeches were also to focus on this umbrella topic. Under this general framework, the CG1 proposed 6 parallel sessions, in which to discuss and present good practices from non-EHEA countries:

- Innovation, new skills and their link to employability
- New (digital) ways of learning and teaching in a lifelong learning context
- Mobility of persons, minds and knowledge
- Untapped talent: opening up higher education and career opportunities to refugees
- Inclusion as a driver for excellence
- Building trust in a global context

In order to organize the sessions, the Group decided to form six new CG1 subgroups, one for each parallel session, and asked each of them to propose ideas and formats for the organization of their session, prepare an introductory abstract or concept note for their topic, and suggest 4 or 5 questions to animate the discussion. They were also to propose possible speakers and moderators able to inspire the audience and to generate and moderate a real debate. A clear roadmap towards June 2020 was set up to achieve these goals.

The CG1 also suggested items that might be included in the Draft Ministerial Communiqué and the Draft GPF Statement.

These were:

- Confirmation of the **vital role of HE in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**, and the necessity of **global collaboration** to do so effectively;
- Confirmation of the necessity of reinforcing ongoing dialogue at global level, and of the **EHEA's responsibility to endow itself with the necessary means** of coordination to foster and participate in this dialogue;
- Confirmation of the emphasis placed in the Paris BPF Statement on the 'Social Dimension', but understood in a broad sense, as the Universities taking up their **societal role with new vigor**. Greater attention should be paid to creating links with **schools and communities**, including those of non-typical learners, in order to prepare them and include them in learning experiences at higher education level;
- Confirmation that focus on **inclusion** should not only be placed at the time of access to HE, but also in the phases of **retention, success and employability**;
- Confirmation that **mobility** is one of the most important keys to global understanding and to excellence in higher education;

- Shared awareness of the importance of putting into contact and reciprocally referencing the **several Qualifications Frameworks and Qualifications Reference frameworks** now functioning or being prepared;
- Shared awareness of the importance of **student-centered learning (SCL) and its implications** regarding the usefulness of credit systems or reference systems based on Learning Outcomes and student time.

In addition to working to achieve existing commitments and aims, the CGI underlined the need to ensure **trust** in the increasingly globalized context of higher education. The CGI also emphasized the importance of **digitalization** to enable innovation in teaching and learning as well as greater transparency, better communication and more flexibility, as will be required in the future.



**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE ROME COMMUNIQUÉ
AND THE FUTURE**

The work carried out, the sessions planned, and the contacts established were all put on hold first because of the postponement of the Rome Ministerial Conference and the planned Global Policy Forum, and then because of the gradual realization, due to the increasing intensity of the pandemic and the uncertainties surrounding the coming months, that the Conference in Rome would be held in entirely virtual form. Thanks to the large spaces originally foreseen for the in-person conference, it would have been possible to invite fairly large delegations from almost all world countries. Those plans had to be radically revised.

At the same time, the impact of COVID-19 has also highlighted one of the premises for the CGI's work: higher education -- higher education institutions and policy -- are vital for world well-being, and their cooperation is essential to addressing the Sustainable Development Goals and other challenges, including the worldwide pandemic and its impact. The hope of the CGI, and one of its guiding principles, was that the global higher education community could participate actively and proactively in a multidirectional dialogue with the EHEA. The EHEA is not the only macro-region working effectively towards greater compatibility and closer cooperation within its own geographical space. The development of other broad areas of cooperation and coordination in higher education suggests that the opportunity for and usefulness of discussion and a search for inter-operability among the world's macro-regions has come of age.

Recent data show that the impact of the pandemic on education systems has been dramatic in all countries and continents, especially where the infrastructure has not allowed a large-scale emergency transfer to on-line learning and teaching. This scenario shows once again how important it is for countries and macro-regions to work together and support each other. This could be an additional topic for continued dialogue in the future, to keep informed and raise awareness about the impact that the pandemic has globally on higher education, but also to identify concrete strategies and measures on how to mitigate its negative impact through international solidarity.

Under these circumstances, the work already done by the CGI should not be lost. It has been impacted by the crisis created by the pandemic, but it becomes even more important for it to be re-shaped and redeployed in the coming months. Global Policy Dialogue may have become more difficult, but it has not become less important.

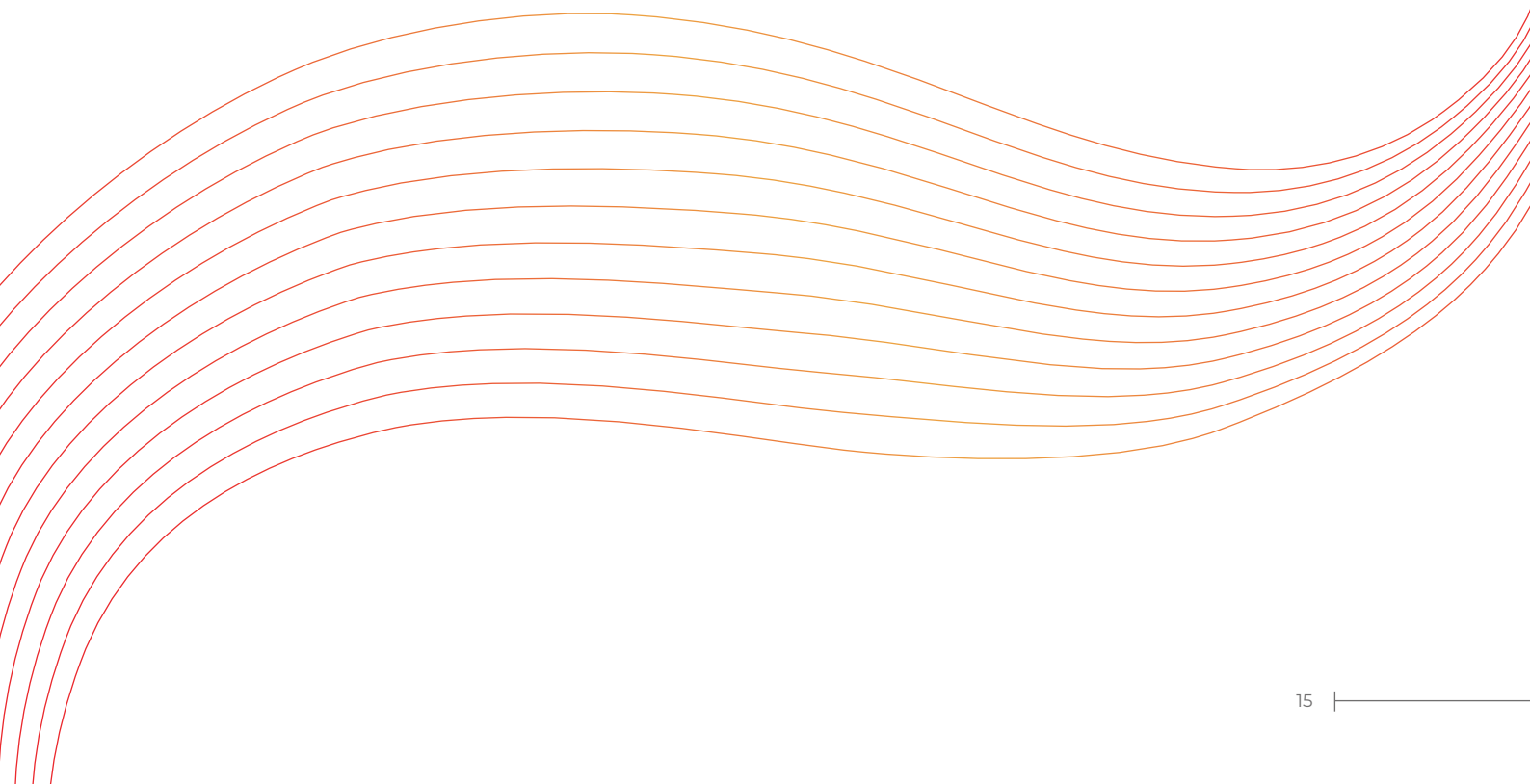
The CGI presented several options for how to move forward in the new context to the BFUG-meeting in June 2020⁴. In the discussion, several BFUG members expressed their preference for a postponement of the Global Policy Forum, although others felt that it should be maintained, to the extent possible, in conjunction with the Rome Ministerial Conference. The Secretariat proposed postponing the entire Forum to 2021, when it could be held with the "Global Summit". The combined Global Policy Forum/Global Summit in that case would (pandemic permitting) allow all 'relevant stakeholders' (the EHEA ministers and the CGI's planned invitees, ministers and representatives of international organizations) to meet physically in Italy, probably Rome. In this case, the activities proposed by the CGI (plenary and parallel sessions) could be implemented at that time.

⁴ http://www.ehea.info/Upload/BFUG_HR-UA_71_10_2_Suggestions_CGI_on_GPF.pdf

With this in mind, the CGI thought that there could nonetheless be a 'mini' Global Policy Forum during the 2020 Rome Ministerial Conference. This was conceived as a brief virtual slot in the Conference with, for example a short keynote, virtual pre-recorded interventions by Ministers and significant international and regional organizations, and where the CGI could present the Draft Statement and propose plans for closer collaboration in the months leading up to the Global Summit, or Policy Forum. This was to be organized around the middle of the day, when Ministers around the world would be most likely to be able to attend virtually (considering time zones).

This proposal would have had two advantages: first, it would have shown that the EHEA considers Global Policy Dialogue to be very important, not least during a global emergency; and second, the EHEA would have been able present in a significant context a Statement agreed upon with Ministers from the rest of the world, thus making clear its role in higher education's global response to the pandemic and a shared orientation with regard to achieving the UN SDG's. In this way, some positive effects could have emerged from the disarray created by the pandemic.

The BFUG Board, meeting on 4 September 2020, asked the CGI to prepare a new proposal to be presented to the Berlin BFUG meeting on 24 September. This proposal recapitulates the options, and focuses on what it would be possible to do in November 2020, as well as on the possibility of postponement to 2021. The result of the discussions by the BFUG and the imperatives deriving from the on-line format, have resulted in a new proposal for an international panel, to be held in virtual format on the afternoon of 19 November 2020.





ToR 2018-2020

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Terms of Reference of the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue (CG 1)

NAME OF THE COORDINATION GROUP

Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

CONTACT PERSONS (CO-CHAIRS)

Ann Katherine Isaacs - ITALY

Magalie Soenen - BELGIUM FLEMISH COMMUNITY

COMPOSITION

Azerbaijan, Belgium Flemish Community, Belgium French Community, Bulgaria, EI-IE, European Commission, ENQA, EUA, France, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, UNESCO, United Kingdom.

OVERARCHING AIM

The overarching aim is to develop, as mandated in the Paris Communiqué, regular 'dialogue' with 'other regions and international organizations' on matters of common concern and relevance for higher education with respect to which cooperation and sharing of ideas and policies can be beneficial, and to prepare and conduct the Global Policy Forum in June 2020.

OBJECTIVES

- Building on what has already been accomplished by Advisory Group 1 in the preparation of the Paris Ministerial meeting, rapidly to further develop dialogue with other regions and organizations on matters relevant for Higher Education, as mandated by the Ministers in Paris;
- To respond positively to the desire expressed by the Paris Bologna Policy Forum for more constant and meaningful "interregional dialogue";
- To propose and promote the organization of international and interregional events or, when appropriate, the designation of events already planned, as contributing to 'Global Policy Dialogue (GPD)';
- To prepare and support the organization of a successful 'Global Policy Forum (GPF)', to be held on the occasion of the 2020 Ministerial Conference in Rome, laying foundations for continuation in the post 2020 period.

REFERENCE TO THE PARIS COMMUNIQUÉ

“We commit to developing the role of higher education in securing a sustainable future for our planet and our societies and to finding ways in which we, as EHEA Ministers, can contribute to meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at global, European and national levels.”

“As a follow-up to the Bologna Policy Forum, we mandate the BFUG to enter into a global policy dialogue to improve regular cooperation with other regions and international organisations. This dialogue should focus on promoting mutual learning and joint initiatives on issues of common interest, such as social inclusion and the wider role of higher education.”

REFERENCE TO THE BOLOGNA POLICY FORUM STATEMENT

“We, the Ministers, commit to supporting this ongoing, successful interregional dialogue on issues of common concern amongst policy makers, stakeholder organisations, students, staff and higher education institutions. We propose the establishment of a Global Working Group in the next 2018 -2020 Bologna work programme to take this agenda forward and we invite countries to express their interest to hold high level workshops on a yearly basis to continue the dialogue on social inclusion and the wider role of higher education.”

REPORTING

Minutes of coordination group meetings and updates on activities will be made available online to the BFUG by the BFUG Secretariat. The BFUG Secretariat, at the request of the CG Chairs, may circulate relevant updates to the CG members.

The BFUG shall also receive regular reports and updates from the group. To ensure good communication with the BFUG as a whole and for the necessary consultations, progress reports shall be submitted at least two weeks before each BFUG meeting.

TIMEFRAME

Meetings are to be electronic when possible. Smaller ad hoc groups may be delegated for specific tasks or relations with specific regions. The exact programming will be discussed by the Co-chairs and the members of the Coordination Group; however, the following constitutes an initial draft schedule:

December 2018 - January 2019:

1. Provide follow-up to the countries and regional or international organizations of HEIs or HEI stakeholders that attended the Paris Bologna Policy Forum, inquiring about interests and suggestions for the Global Policy Dialogue and the Global Policy Forum;
2. Send information on the Global Policy Dialogue and the Global Policy Forum; to the countries and regional or international organizations of HEIs or HEI stakeholders that did not attend the Paris meeting, inviting them to share views and participate;
3. Contact the other significant HE networks and international initiatives, such as those supported by the European Commission, that have created premises for macro-regional and/or national dialogue with the EHEA and the wider world, to gain their insights and evaluate their potential contribution;
4. Identify volunteers to host the 'joint meetings' as proposed in the Statement (or alternatively, or in addition, in connection with the previous point, designate as contributing to the 'Global Dialogue' appropriate initiatives already planned by countries, international HE organizations, other stakeholders).

February - March 2019:

5. Report to the Spring BFUG meeting and propose further suitable ways to address arising issues, including specific task forces or working groups if and as necessary or advisable.

In general, the plans presented to the BFUG will specify actions to be undertaken in 2019 and 2020, including:

6. Events to be organized or designated as contributing to Global Policy Dialogue
7. Support for the preparation of participation in and the agenda and programme of the Global Policy Forum to be held in Rome, June 2020.
8. Lay the way for the continuation of Global Policy Dialogue after the Rome meeting.



**LIST OF CGI MEETINGS
AND PARTICIPANTS**

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1. FIRST MEETING OF CGI ON GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE IN BRUSSELS ON 8 FEBRUARY 2019

[Meeting Agenda](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Meeting participants:

Azerbaijan	Shanin Bayramov
Belgium Flemish Community (Co-chair)	Magalie Soenen
Belgium French Community	Caroline Hollela
ENQA	Maria Kelo
EUA	Michael Gaebel
France	Hélène Lagier
Germany	David Akrami Flores
Holy See	Melanie Rosenbaum
Ireland	Orla Lynch
Italy, BFUG Vice-chair (Co-chair)	Ann Katherine Isaacs
UNESCO	Liliana Simionescu
United Kingdom	Ella Ritchie
BFUG Secretariat	Luca Lantero
BFUG Secretariat	Filippo Benedetti
BFUG Secretariat	Edlira Adi Kahani Subashi

2. SECOND MEETING OF CGI ON GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE IN BOLOGNA ON 24 JUNE 2019

[Meeting Agenda](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Meeting participants:

Belgium Flemish Community (Co-chair)	Magalie Soenen
Belgium French Community	Caroline Hollela
ENQA	Maria Kelo
EUA	Michael Gaebel
European Commission	Deirdre Lennan
France	Hélène Lagier
Germany	Anja Diek
Germany	Katrin Fohmann
Holy See	Melanie Rosenbaum
Ireland	Orla Lynch
Italy, BFUG Vice-chair (Co-chair)	Ann Katherine Isaacs
Kazakhstan	Khanat Kassenov
United Kingdom	Ella Ritchie
BFUG Secretariat	Luca Lantero
BFUG Secretariat	Giovanni Finocchietti
BFUG Secretariat	Allan Garner
BFUG Secretariat	Vera Lucke

3. THIRD MEETING OF CGI ON GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE IN ROME ON 22 OCTOBER 2019

[Meeting Agenda](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Meeting participants:

Belgium Flemish Community (Co-chair)	Magalie Soenen
Belgium French Community	Caroline Hollela
ENQA	Maria Kelo
EI/ETUCE	Alessandro Arienzo
EUA	Michael Gaebel
France	Hélène Lagier
Germany	Katrin Fohmann
Holy See	Melanie Rosenbaum
Italy, BFUG Vice-chair (Co-chair)	Ann Katherine Isaacs
UNESCO	Liliana Simionescu
BFUG Secretariat	Edlira Adi Kahani Subashi
BFUG Secretariat	Clarissa Ioimo

4. FOURTH MEETING OF CGI ON GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE, ONLINE, ON 24 MARCH 2020

[Meeting Agenda](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Meeting participants:

Belgium Flemish Community (Co-chair)	Magalie Soenen
Belgium French Community	Caroline Hollela
ENQA	Maria Kelo
European Commission	Marlène Bartès
Germany	Katrin Fohmann
Holy See	Melanie Rosenbaum
Ireland	Orla Lynch
Italy, BFUG Vice-chair (Co-chair)	Ann Katherine Isaacs
UNESCO	Liliana Simionescu
UNESCO	Peter Wells
United Kingdom	Ella Ritchie
BFUG Secretariat	Filippo Benedetti
BFUG Secretariat	Clarissa Ioimo
BFUG Secretariat	Vera Lucke

5. FIFTH MEETING OF CGI ON GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE ONLINE ON 4 JUNE 2020

[Meeting Agenda](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Meeting participants:

Belgium Flemish Community (Co-chair)	Magalie Soenen
ENQA	Maria Kelo
EUA	Michael Gaebel
European Commission	Fiorella Perotto
France	Hélène Lagier
Holy See	Melanie Rosenbaum
Ireland	Orla Lynch
Italy, BFUG Vice-chair (Co-chair)	Ann Katherine Isaacs
Italy	Chiara Finocchietti
UNESCO	Peter Wells
United Kingdom	Ella Ritchie
BFUG Secretariat	Filippo Benedetti
BFUG Secretariat	Clarissa Ioimo
BFUG Secretariat	Vera Lucke

6. SIXTH MEETING OF CGI ON GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

[Meeting Agenda](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Meeting participants:

Belgium Flemish Community (Co-chair)	Magalie Soenen
ENQA	Maria Kelo
EUA	Michael Gaebel
European Commission	Fiorella Perotto
France	Hélène Lagier
Holy See	Melanie Rosenbaum
Italy, BFUG Vice-chair (Co-chair)	Ann Katherine Isaacs
Italy	Chiara Finocchietti
Kazakhstan	Assel Shukurova
UNESCO	Peter Wells
United Kingdom	Ella Ritchie
BFUG Secretariat	Lantero Luca
BFUG Secretariat	Vera Lucke
BFUG Secretariat	Rocío Iglesias de Ussel Rubio

7. SEVENTH MEETING OF CGI ON GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

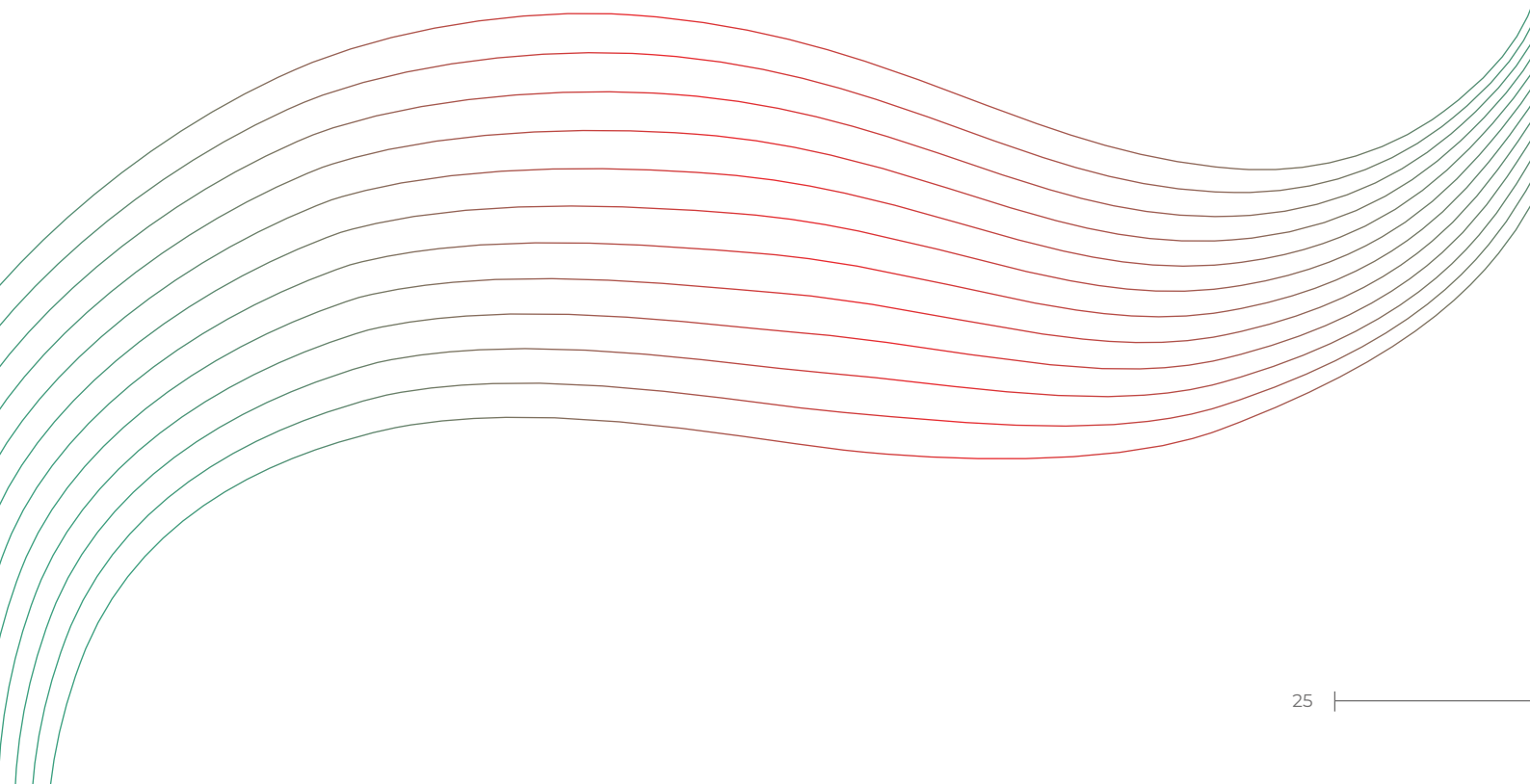
[*Meeting Agenda*](#)

[*Meeting Minutes*](#)

Meeting participants:

Belgium Flemish Community (Co-chair)	Magalie Soenen
ENQA	Maria Kelo
European Commission	Fiorella Perotto
France	Hélène Lagier
France	David Akrami Flores
Holy See	Melanie Rosenbaum
Ireland	Orla Lynch
Italy, BFUG Vice-chair (Co-chair)	Ann Katherine Isaacs
Italy	Chiara Finocchietti
UNESCO	Liliana Simionescu
United Kingdom	Ella Ritchie
BFUG Secretariat	Vera Lucke
BFUG Secretariat	Rocío Iglesias de Ussel Rubio

In addition, there have also been numerous subgroup meetings to prepare the Statement and the Lists, and separate meetings of the groups on the parallel sessions.



The background features a vertical gradient from light orange at the bottom to dark red at the top. On the left side, there are intricate white line art patterns consisting of overlapping, curved lines that create a mesh-like effect. On the right side, a large, white-outlined number '7' is partially visible, extending from the bottom edge towards the center. The word 'ACRONYMS' is centered in the middle of the page in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

ACRONYMS

BFUG

Bologna Follow Up Group

CG

Coordination Group

GPD

Global Policy Dialogue

GPF

Global Policy Forum

IAU

International Association of Universities

LRC

Lisbon Recognition Convention

MCU

Magna Charta Universitatum

SCL

Student-centered Learning

SDG

Sustainable Development Goals

ANNEXES



ANNEX I DRAFT STATEMENT OF THE BOLOGNA GLOBAL POLICY FORUM [Rome November 2020]

We, the Ministers responsible for higher education and heads of delegation, institutions and organisations participating in the Bologna Global Policy Forum, express our firm conviction that higher education has a vital role to perform in addressing the present and future challenges to world peace, sustainable development and wellbeing.

Evaluating progress

Many world regions and countries have progressed in consolidating and connecting their higher education systems and structures in recent decades. Exchange and cooperation have increased at international, regional, national and institutional levels. Worldwide connectivity and mobility of staff and students have grown, as have the total numbers of learners in tertiary education. We are aware, however, that not all higher education regions have the opportunity to participate equally in these developments. The goals of widening inclusion and ensuring equitable access for all have not yet been reached.

Global challenges, including the coronavirus pandemic, continue to demonstrate the need for closer international cooperation in higher education and research. The potential of higher education to contribute to addressing such challenges relies on scientific research and effective transfer and use of the knowledge gained. Flexible, responsive higher education systems are needed to underpin sustainable, peaceful and inclusive societies.

Fundamental values, including academic freedom and institutional autonomy, under threat in many countries, are necessary safeguards for higher education, and must be strengthened.

Moving forward

We commit to doing our part to reach all the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030**. We commit to enhance inclusion and equitable access for students from diverse backgrounds, including refugees and migrants, in order to provide “equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university” (SDG 4.3). We commit to increase the “number of scholarships available to developing countries” (SDG 4.B).

We underline our commitment to developing the **social dimension** of higher education, understood to mean not only inclusion in terms of access, but also enhancement of our institutions’ capacity to retain learners and equip them with the competences they will need for employment and for their personal and civic lives, as well as an awareness of and commitment to the principles of sustainability (SDG 4.7).

Following our discussions during the Bologna Global Policy Forum, we recognize the positive potential for all our countries in:

- Fostering **innovation** in learning and teaching, opening up to new skills, and ensuring their link to employability. We recognize the need for higher education institutions to engage with their communities and stakeholders, to develop inclusive strategies that are mutually beneficial, and which require broad thinking and collective responsibility. More contact with schools and employers is necessary to ensure that the skills and competences needed in the future are formed.

- Increasing shared awareness of the importance of **student-centred learning** taking place in a research-rich teaching and learning environment, and of its implications, such as flexibility in study programs and learning paths in a lifelong learning perspective. Higher education needs to foster an entrepreneurial culture, promoting innovative learning approaches, environments and assessment methods.
- Exploiting **digital ways of learning and teaching** more intensely in a lifelong learning context. When based on trustworthy methods and data, these offer great potential for innovation in teaching and learning and can support institutions in times of geographical or spatial constraints, although relevant issues of unequal access subsist.
- Further developing all forms of **mobility** of people and knowledge, as one of the most important keys to global understanding and to excellence in higher education. Reciprocity and balanced incoming and outgoing mobility should be pursued as an objective.
- Reaching untapped talent by **opening up** higher education and career opportunities to refugees and other persons in situations of difficulty, and as a driver for excellence.

To **achieve this potential**, we must support interconnection, mobility and recognition and enhance **trust**, and cooperate to develop and **connect the tools** needed to ensure it.

We will work towards a shared understanding and, where possible, comparability between the **Qualifications Frameworks, Qualifications Reference Frameworks, and Quality assurance approaches** developed in different world regions. The **UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education** is a landmark achievement. Connecting and building on pre-existing regional agreements, it is an important step towards reaching the goals of the Education 2030 Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4: “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning”.

Continuing Dialogue

We take up our responsibility towards our countries and peoples, in order to unleash the potential of higher education to find solutions to the world's challenges. We wish to support present and future generations to think and act ethically, creatively and critically to be able to face the challenges of the future. Increased cooperation across regions will strengthen our ability to find innovative and inclusive solutions.

We commit to interregional dialogue and confirm the need to further strengthen and better structure our cooperation in the coming decade, taking our good existing progress to the policy level.

We **reiterate** the imperative of contributing on multiple levels to achieving all of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in 2030**, and commit to working more closely together in the coming decade to achieve our agreed priorities.

The next Bologna Global Policy Forum will be held in (still to be decided)

