

Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

Draft workplan for discussion at the CG meeting on 13 January 2022

Premise:

During the first year of the present work period, the Coordination Group (CG) has devoted efforts to elaborate plans to utilize the opportunity for EU support in carrying out its tasks. A proposal was presented by the deadline: it includes only some of the suggestions made by the CG, but it is quite general and should prove to be adaptable. It is not, at present, possible to know whether the proposal will be approved. In any event the Coordination Group must now take decisive action to create and carry out its mandated tasks, with or without an approved project budget. The present document intends to propose as a practical first step the creation of a certain number of subgroups entrusted with 'building dialogue' with particular macro-regions on relevant themes.

The subgroups do not replace the CG. The full group stays responsible for its communication towards the BFUG and for carrying out its mandate. The subgroups will be coordinated by the full CG. To encourage flexibility, responsiveness and quick action, however, it seems useful to entrust specific areas of endeavor to smaller subgroups.

Intersection with the INGLOBAL project

The INGLOBAL project, if approved, will give the CG the possibility to finance some meetings, workshops, travel, and events. It is formulated in a very general way, and was submitted by Romania and Italy also on behalf of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA community (TF on EK). It has one work package, which is specifically intended to support the CG in its activities. Clearly, if the project is approved, there will be certain opportunities for action which otherwise will not be available unless other funding sources are found.

Nonetheless, the CG is committed to carrying out its tasks with or without this extra support.

Working method and themes

Considering the large number of CG members and the need for flexible and frequent interaction in order to carry out the many tasks of the CG, it seems useful to form self-organizing 'subgroups' that will regularly report back to the entire CG and inform it of their plans and results. This working method was also used in the 2018-2020 working period.

The various subgroups are understood to be formed voluntarily according to the specific interests and competences of the CG members: further CG members can join if they wish and when they wish, compatibly with the need for reasonably streamlined operativity.

For each subgroup there will be at least one agreed 'chair/coordinator', who can convene meetings and keep communications fluid. The chairs/coordinators of the subgroups communicate regularly to the four co-chairs of the CG.

The number of subgroups is not 'fixed': new groups can be added if needed during the timeframe of the work period.

CG members discussed at some length whether it is more appropriate to divide their efforts according to geographical criteria (focus on a single macro-region) or by theme. At this time the consensus seems to be that:

1. There must be some 'functional subgroups'.

- a. a group responsible for proposing the organization of the next Global Policy Forum;
 - b. a group responsible for drafting and building consensus around the Statement of the Forum;
 - c. a group responsible for liaising with the TF on Knowledge Enhancement whether or not the INGLOBAL project is approved;
 - d.
2. It is opportune that those most interested in and informed about certain macro-regions work together to build strong connections with each region.
 3. 'Bologna' now comprises many themes which are of interest to educators and HEI communities in all parts of the world. Some of these were proposed and discussed in the previous work period and appear in our current Terms of Reference (ToR). These are themes such as inclusion academic freedom and autonomy ... the role of HEIs in reaching the SDGs New developments in Learning and Teaching ... as well as such themes as recognition, QFs, etc.
 4. It should be possible to organize subgroups able to take responsibility for a specific macro-region and also to lead the work on a 'macro-theme' of specific interest to their macro-region while also opening thematic activities or events to those outside their macro-region.

We may recall that the thematic areas for the global policy forum, elaborated in the previous work period, were:

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

These can of course be reconsidered in the light of subsequent developments.

Initial organisation of Subgroups:

In consideration of the above, the Co-chairs propose in the first instance the formation of 6 subgroups:

1. Events and liaison with the TF on EK: this subgroup should monitor and inform the rest of the CG about international, national, or other conferences, activities or events which may be of interest for realizing the CG objectives, by 'piggy-back', asking to be represented in the said activities; by joining forces with the organisers or potential organisers. This will include, where possible, giving a global dimension to events organized by the TF, and, if the INGLOBAL project is approved, formulating and presenting to the CG a specific plan of activities and events to be carried out in the project context (Proposed chair Michael? members: the members shared with the TF).
2. Longterm preparation for the Tirana Global Policy Forum: this subgroup will present initial ideas and plans for the GPF to be discussed by the CG. It will eventually work on specific matters such as invitations, meeting format and drafting the statement, inviting other appropriate members of the CG to collaborate and using to the extent possible the 'lists' already formulated in the previous work period, (proposed chair: Linda).
3. Thematic/geographic subgroup (South-East) Asia: this subgroup will comprise the Asean region and coordinate with the ASEM process: it may focus on one or more themes, such as inclusion, mobility, quality assurance and credit transfer/recognition. It may also comprise the South Pacific islands and some rim countries...?? (proposed chair: Magalie)

4. Thematic/geographic subgroup Africa? SubSahara? All? Including North Africa and Francophone Africa?
Or? As above (proposed chair: Fiorella)

Have to decide whether North Africa and Near East is best understood as a separate macro-region....

5. The Americas: prevalently South and Central, but giving due attention to North America if possible...(possible chair Kathy)

6. Central Asia: this seems more problematic than it was a couple of days ago, with the Russian paratroopers in KZ to 'protect' the country. In any case they have formed their CAHEA and DAAD (and Kathy) are interested.

Draft Roadmap

Here I would make a table with some detail at least for 2022: I have started but not finished [See the first draft roadmap in a separate file]

Documentation for reference (links)

1. Current ToR as approved by the BFUG
2. Excerpt regarding the CG from IN-GLOBAL project
3. Report from 2018-2020
- 4.