Terms of Reference

of

the Working Group on Implementation – Fostering implementation of agreed key commitments (WG 2)

Name of the Working Group
Working Group on Implementation – Fostering implementation of agreed key commitments

Contact persons (Co-Chairs)
Helga POSSET – Austria (helga.posset@bmwfw.gv.at)
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Composition of the WG - Members
Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium VL, BUSINESS EUROPE, Croatia, Denmark, EI/ETUCE, ENQA, EQAR, ESU, EU Commission, EUA, EURASHE, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom ([123456])

Purpose and/or outcome
The Working Group on the Implementation is responsible to provide support to member states for the implementation of agreed goals on a national and institutional level. It is mandated to coordinate a programme of actions (such as peer learning, voluntary peer review, conference, seminar, workshop, etc) based on policy dialogue and exchange of good practice; actions proposed and organised by countries, institutions and/or organisations. The Working Group will develop policy proposals based among others on conclusions from events aiming at providing support to countries in achieving the implementation of agreed key commitments within the European Higher Education Area.

The working group will also make full use of the conclusions and recommendations laid down in the "Bologna Process Revisited" document as well as the outcomes of the research work carried out by Higher Education Researchers in general and of the conclusions and recommendations summarising the second |

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[1] Liaison with the WG 1 on "Monitoring"
[2] Liaison with the WG 3 on "New goals – Policy development for new EHEA goals"
[3] Liaison with the AG 4 on the Revision of the Diploma Supplement
[4] Liaison with the AG 2 on "Support for the Belarus roadmap"
[5] Liaison with the AG 3 on "Dealing with non-implementation"
[6] Liaison with the AG 1 on "EHEA international cooperation"

Bologna Researchers' conference in particular.

Reference to the Yerevan Communiqué

➢ Implementing the policy measures adopted:
  - The revised Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG);
  - The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes;
  - The revised ECTS Users' Guide.
➢ **Implementing agreed structural reforms** is a prerequisite for the consolidation of the EHEA and, in the long run, for its success. A common degree structure and credit system, common quality assurance standards and guidelines, cooperation for mobility and joint programmes and degrees are the foundations of the EHEA. We will develop more effective policies for the recognition of credits gained abroad, of qualifications for academic and professional purposes, and of prior learning. Full and coherent implementation of agreed reforms at the national level requires shared ownership and commitment by policy makers and academic communities and stronger involvement of stakeholders. Non-implementation in some countries undermines the functioning and credibility of the whole EHEA. We need more precise measurement of performance as a basis for reporting from member countries. Through policy dialogue and exchange of good practice, we will provide targeted support to member countries experiencing difficulties in implementing the agreed goals and enable those who wish to go further to do so."
➢ to include short cycle qualifications in the overarching framework of qualifications for the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA), based on the Dublin descriptors for short cycle qualifications and quality assured according to the ESG, so as to make provision for the recognition of short cycle qualifications in their own systems, also where these do not comprise such qualifications;
➢ to ensure that competence requirements for public employment allow for fair access to holders of first cycle degrees, and encourage employers to make appropriate use of all higher education qualifications, including those of the first cycle;
➢ to ensure, in collaboration with institutions, reliable and meaningful information on graduates' career patterns and progression in the labour market, which should be provided to institutional leaders, potential students, their parents and society at large;
➢ to review national legislations with a view to fully complying with the Lisbon Recognition Convention, reporting to the Bologna Secretariat by the end of 2016, and asking the Convention Committee, in cooperation with the ENIC and NARIC Networks, to prepare an analysis of the reports by the end of 2017, taking due account of the monitoring of the Convention carried out by the Convention Committee;
➢ to remove obstacles to the recognition of prior learning for the purposes of providing access to higher education programmes and facilitating the award of qualifications on the basis of prior learning, as well as encouraging higher education institutions to improve their capacity to recognize prior learning;
➢ to review national qualifications frameworks, with the view to ensuring that learning paths within the framework provide adequately for the recognition of prior learning;
➢ to promote staff mobility taking into account the guidelines from the Working group on mobility and internalization;
➢ to promote the portability of grants and loans taking into account the guidelines from the Working group on mobility and internalization;
➢ to make our higher education more socially inclusive by implementing the EHEA social dimension strategy;
➢ to ensure that qualifications from other EHEA countries are automatically recognized at the same level as relevant domestic qualifications;

- to enable our higher education institutions to use a suitable EQAR registered agency for their external quality assurance process, respecting the national arrangements for the decision making on QA outcomes.
- The EHEA has a key role to play in addressing these challenges and maximizing these opportunities through European collaboration and exchange, by pursuing common goals and in dialogue with partners around the globe.
- We ask the BFUG […] to involve higher education practitioners in its work programme […].
- […] we take this opportunity to underline the importance of all members and consultative members participating fully in the work of the BFUG and contributing to the EHEA work programme.
- Finally, we take note with approval of the reports by the working groups on Implementation, Structural reforms, Mobility and internationalization and the Social dimension and lifelong learning, as well as by the Pathfinder group on automatic recognition.

Specific tasks

- To use the implementation report 2015 as evidence base to identify topics for peer-learning and voluntary peer review actions;
- To contact BFUG countries, with the assistance of the BFUG secretariat, to clarify the needs of peer learning;
- To specify a range of topics in agreement with the BFUG;
- To gather and coordinate actions organized by countries, institutions and organisations;
- To guide and assist countries, institutions and organisations in organizing activities;
- To ensure and foster the involvement of national, European and international stakeholders in the organization of the events, the attendance of the events and /or active participation in drafting common policies;
- To ensure the dissemination of upcoming activities and their emerging results;
- To report back regularly to the BFUG on feedback, results of actions taken, national policy recommendations if needed, and on reflections on the WG concept.

Topics :

[topics are just tentative, will be proposed for agreement by the working group to the BFUG in March 2016]

- Automatic recognition
- Qualification framework
- Recognition of prior learning
- Student and staff mobility
- Internationalization
- Social dimension strategy
- Quality assurance
- Quality assurance of joint programmes
- Graduate tracking
- Employability
- ECTS
- Etc.

Reporting

Minutes of working group meetings will be made available to the BFUG.

The co-chairs will present regular updates on upcoming and past activities (updates may include upcoming

dates, policy recommendations, feedback, and results) to the BFUG.

In between meetings, updates should be circulated by the Bologna Secretariat via e-mail. A streamlined report on the results, feedback and reflections on the WG concept will be presented and discussed at the BFUG meeting at the latest in the second half of 2017.

Meeting schedule:

[meeting schedule is just tentative, will be decided by the working group at a later stage]

First WG meeting(s): November 2015 – February 2016
Discussion on proposals received from countries, institutions and organisations

Proposal of topics to focus on and translated into which action

2016 - July 2017 –

2-3 meetings of the Working Group

Upon agreement with the BFUG:

- organisation of activities and events,
- coordination, guidance, follow-up, taking stock, analyse feedback and results of activities,
- preparation of input and reports for the WG and the BFUG.

September 2017 – Reflect on the concept and the framework, Summing-up of events and finalizing reporting
January 2018 (if necessary)

Liaison with other WGs' and/or advisory groups' activities

- WG 1 on "Monitoring"
- WG 3 on "New goals – Policy development for new EHEA goals"
- AG 3 on "Dealing with non-implementation"
- AG 2 on "Support for the Belarus roadmap"
- AG 1 on "EHEA international cooperation"
- AG 4 on "The revision of the Diploma Supplement"

Additional remarks

➢ Given that drawing a strict line between topics of the WGs on "Implementation" and on "New goals" is difficult, events of both WGs shall be tightly coordinated by the co-chairs in order to avoid overlaps or to collaborate, if applicable.

➢ *The topics mentioned above do not lead to groups being set up for each topic, but are translated to activities that will foster exchange of good practice and peer review.*

➢ These terms of reference may be reviewed in the light of progress of the work, in agreement with the BFUG.