

## **ADVISORY GROUP 4 “DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT REVISION”**

**Berlin (Germany) – 25 May 2016**

### Draft Minutes

#### **List of participants**

<b>Organization/Country</b>	<b>Name</b>
ALBANIA co-chair	Linda PUSTINA
ARMENIA	Kristina TSATURYAN Apologies
AUSTRIA	Nicole GUTHAN
BELARUSS	Valentina SIMKHOVICH Apologies
BFUG SECRETARIAT	Françoise PROFIT
BUSINESSEUROPE	Irene SELING
COUNCIL OF EUROPE	Jean-Philippe RESTOUEIX Apologies
EI/ETUCE	Agnes ROMAN Apologies
ENIC NARIC	Wafa TRIEK
ESU	Tijana ISOSKI
EUA	Hanne SMIDT SODERGARD
EURASHE	Michal KARPISEK
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	Mette ANDERSON
FINLAND	Susanna KÄRKI
FRANCE	Jean-Louis GOUJU
ITALY	Maria STICCHI DAMIANI
LRCC	Allan Bruun PEDERSEN
ROMANIA co-chair	Mihai Cezar HÂJ
UNESCO	Peter WELLS Apologies
UNITED KINGDOM	Huw David Landeg MORRIS

#### **Welcome and introduction to the meeting**

The co-chairs welcome the participants and thank Irene SELING, the representative of Business Europe, for hosting the meeting in the premises of Business Europe in Berlin.

Irene SELING briefly gives some information on the building and its organization, and the work of the confederation of German employers association.

## **Adoption of the Agenda**

*Document: draft annotated agenda*

An update on the activities of the European Commission is added on item 3 of the agenda. With this point in addition, the agenda is adopted.

## **Adoption of the first meeting minutes**

*Document: First meeting of the Bologna Working group on Diploma Supplement*

Taking into consideration the modifications previously proposed, the minutes are adopted.

From one sentence of the minutes concerning the Diploma Supplement (DS) for third cycle degrees starts a debate. According to the last BFUG meeting, where this sensitive issue raised questions and significant interest, and considering that most participants of the AG have their opinion on this subject, it is agreed to discuss the question of the doctoral supplement during the next meetings. The co-chair informs the assembly that there will also be a debate at the next BFUG meeting on this question.

## **Updates on the work plan**

The co-chairs present the first data collected so far: only five countries have answered the questionnaire sent two months ago. But it appears that two questionnaires - quite similar - circulated at the same time: the AG questionnaire and another one from the European Commission to Europass centres. This could explain the low rate of answers received by the chairs of this AG. After checking, the representative of European Commission, Mette ANDERSON, will indicate which countries have not answered so far and the BFUG Secretariat will send a reminder to these countries.

The organizations can at least fill in the last two parts of the questionnaire (monitoring and main changes to propose) and send back their answers to the BFUG Secretariat.

The European Commission (EC) representative, Mette ANDERSON, gives a short overview of the first results of the survey sent to the Europass centres. This survey could be used by the AG to go further if the members of the group want to use it. [See the main results in the EC joined document]

In the context of EAC- multiple framework service contract to carry out studies supporting European cooperation in education and youth, the European Commission is launching a study to support the revision of the Diploma Supplement and analyse the feasibility of its digitalisation at European level. This project is expected to start on the 1st of July and to end 8 months later. [See document]. The first results of this study could be shared with the group members during the autumn meeting. The intention of this work is not to change the nature of the DS – for which the approval of the three partners European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO would be necessary – but to identify good examples. The case of the digitalisation of DS could be a sub contract.

It is also stated that the “Bologna implementation 2015 report” and the results of the survey coming from Europass centres are different: there is great difference between EU countries (cf. survey analysing the answers of Europass centres) and non-EU countries, reflecting a two speed EHEA.

Concerning the digitalisation of the DS, the questions of the security of data and of the validation of information are underlined. Huw MORRIS, the UK representative, is invited to present the system used in UK for the meeting in autumn 2016. It is also agreed that the AG has to provide a definition of and guidelines on what digitalisation means: is it a pdf document or something more sophisticated to dematerialise the DS guaranteeing the validation of the data?

## **Work Session 1**

### *Results of questionnaires*

The Romanian co-chair, Cezar HAJ, briefly presents the first results of the five questionnaires received so far. [See PPT presentation]

The guidelines mentioned by Hungary can be consulted following the link:

[http://europass.hu/documents/letolheto\\_dokumentumok/europass\\_munkaltatok.pdf](http://europass.hu/documents/letolheto_dokumentumok/europass_munkaltatok.pdf)

This brochure is designed for the employers focusing on their needs and questions regarding the Europass documents. The initial guidelines which accompany the template of the DS were addressed to the educational institutions.

Everybody agrees that there is a need to clarify the guidelines in order to provide useful information for stakeholders and to keep the DS short.

### *Perspective of the employers*

The representative of BusinessEurope, Irene SELING, presents the perspective of employers regarding the use of the Diploma Supplement. She presents the impression and reflexions of the employers, underlining the usefulness of learning outcomes, of ECTS, and of the workload. She also remarks that the conclusions of the study published in 2009 "Diploma supplement as seen by its users"<sup>1</sup> by the ENIC NARIC Network and ENQA are still relevant and actual. [See PPT presentation]

The debate focuses on the key skills, the information related to employability and the complementary information provided by other documents such as the individual CV.

### **Work Session 2**

*EUA presentation on the perspective of universities regarding the use of the Diploma Supplement. [ See the PPT presentation]*

It is evident that learning outcomes are necessary for professional purposes and for academics. They are the link between labour market and academic.

*ESU presentation on the perspective of students regarding the use of the Diploma Supplement. [See the PPT presentation]*

During the discussion, it is reminded that the DS is not only for employment purposes but for improving mobility through its use by the recognition centres as well. Its name might be changed but some members protest that the name is now brand known and that it would not be a wise decision.

### **Work Session 3**

*ENIC NARIC network perspectives*

According to the 15 answers received to her questions, the representative of the ENIC NARIC Network, Wafa TRIEK, presents the inputs from the network on what the centres are expecting from the DS and which improvements they propose. [See document of the representative]

In addition, Allan BRUN PEDERSEN, the representative of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee, informs the assembly that during the last meeting in February, a subsidiary text on joint degrees has been adopted.

### **Discussions regarding the main changes on the Diploma Supplement and topics for future meetings**

The discussion which has followed the presentations permits to move forward to establish a list of subjects on which the AG members will have to focus and adopt a position.

Summing up what each of the stakeholders/speakers of the day have underlined in their presentations, a list of subjects is set up to be discussed during the next meetings. [see list of priorities]

The group will have to adopt a position on these topics in order to suggest recommendations to the Ministerial conference.

The BFUG Secretariat will check with the board and the BFUG members what kind of report is expected from the AGs and how they can contribute to the Communiqué.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ciep.fr/sites/default/files/migration/publi\\_educ/docs/diploma-supplement-as-seen-by-its-users.pdf](http://www.ciep.fr/sites/default/files/migration/publi_educ/docs/diploma-supplement-as-seen-by-its-users.pdf)

### **Information on the next meeting in Tirana (Albania) on June 23.**

The co-chair from Albania, Linda PUSTINA, gives preliminary information about the next meeting which will begin with an official welcome dinner on June 22. She makes another pleasurable announcement: the Albanian Ministry will offer a touristic extension to the meeting, during the following week end.

The draft agenda will be sent shortly, according to the list of priorities, and will contain an item on learning outcomes.

### **AOB**

- The members of the AG agree to put in a table the sections of the DS, the guidelines and opposite to the list of priorities.
- The members also agree to ask the representative of Finland, Susanna KÄRKI, to propose significant good practices/good examples for each section of the DS helping to fill in the template.
- The meeting in autumn 2016 will take place in October or November in Vienna (Austria).