

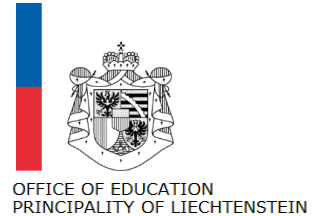


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## Explanatory note on the BFUG Work Plan 2015-2018

On the basis of the Yerevan communiqué, the paper “The Bologna process revisited” and our preparatory work in the BFUG meetings in Riga (January and March) and the board in Vaduz, the BFUG work plan 2015-2018 has been restructured and the working groups (WGs) built on three main pillars, of which one focuses on **reporting**, one on **implementation** and one on **new visions**, the later being a major innovation. The pillars<sup>1</sup> are named:

- “Monitoring” ,
- “Implementation of structural reforms”
- “New EHEA goals”.

The 1<sup>st</sup> WG on “**Monitoring**” will have the task to monitor and to report on the current state of implementation of the Bologna Process, as it was done in the period 2012-2015. Monitoring is critical for providing countries with a strong evidence base on the progress of implementation. The report of 2018 will constitute the basis for the period 2018-2020<sup>2</sup>.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> WG on “**Implementation of structural reforms**” will focus on the implementation of structural reforms agreed on in the past and will be based on peer exchange and review which are the main means for implementation available to the BFUG. It is responsible for delivering on the commitment to provide support to implementation on a national and institutional level. It involves the national stakeholders in the activities, in order to encourage greater exchange and implementation on the ground. The BFUG secretariat will contact each BFUG member and by end of 2015 to clarify the needs of peer learning.<sup>2</sup>

The 3<sup>rd</sup> WG on “**New EHEA goals**” is dedicated to new priorities for the future of the EHEA. The group serves as a platform for *innovation*. The topics in the 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar are focussed on **new ideas with a European dimension**. The events held in the 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar are expected to contribute to policy development, ideally to provide policy recommendations. The working group will cooperate closely with the national and European stakeholders.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the organisation chart 2015-2018 (Page 1)

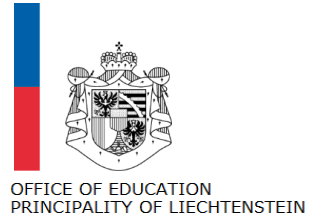
<sup>2</sup> Please refer to the Terms of Reference of the WGs



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## Organisation of second and third pillar<sup>3</sup>

Whereas the WG on “Monitoring” functions in a similar way compared to the last period, the two other WGs are mandated to organise various actions and events (e.g. peer learning, conference, seminar, pathfinder group, etc), and is assisted by a steering committee (SC). Both pillars are structured like a matrix with specific topics and actions/approaches. Whereas peer learning activities will dominate in the second pillar, the working group on “new EHEA goals” will focus on innovative themes using pioneering approaches.

To meet the goals of the Yerevan Communiqué, a list of specific topics and challenges have been identified and proposed. BFUG and consultative members are invited to propose additional topics for the second WG and to express their willingness to organise an activity. It is the task of the working groups, assisted by their steering committees, to decide which topics to pursue and what approach to take. The topics mentioned below do not lead to working groups being set up for each topic (except for pathfinder groups), but lead to activities that will foster exchange of good practice and peer review. The steering committees will, on the basis of the list of agreed events, programme, coordinate, follow-up, take stock and report to the BFUG on the events. Event organisers will finance the activity; participants cover for travel and accommodation expenses. The steering committees may however assist the event organisers in applying for financial support (if applicable and necessary). To avoid overlaps between activities, they must be tightly coordinated by the steering committees. One or two steering committee members should be foreseen to oversee each activity.

## Proposed topics

A non-exhaustive list of specific topics<sup>4</sup> and challenges have been identified and proposed.

### Implementation of structural reforms

- Automatic recognition
- QF
- Recognition of prior learning

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<sup>3</sup> Please refer to the annex for examples

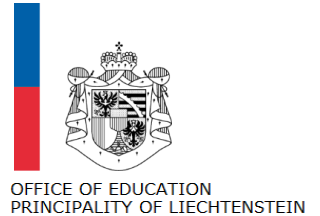
<sup>4</sup> Please refer to the organisation chart 2015-2018 (Page 2)



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- Student and staff mobility
- Social dimension strategy
- QA
- Bologna transparency tools
- ...

BFUG members and consultative members are invited to propose additional topics and to express their willingness to organise an activity (by contacting the BFUG secretariat).

### New EHEA goals

- European digital higher education area, pedagogical innovations
- EHEA-ERA / Knowledge triangle / role of higher education and research in society and for European citizenship
- Build more inclusive systems: gender, immigration, demographic changes
- Dialogue with employers: vocational and higher Education, LLL, employability, role of Higher Education in economy
- Professional recognition
- EHEA 2025

### The board and its committees<sup>5</sup>

In addition to the three pillars, three “board committees” (BC) will coordinate and prepare **single targeted tasks** for the BFUG, dealing with the Bologna Policy Forum, the support for the Belarus roadmap and the dealing with the non-implementation.

They will function until their task is completed. In order to prepare the discussions for the BFUG meetings in the best possible way, the committees may consult with the board in between board meetings and BFUG meetings.

The BCs will be open for applications by BFUG and consultative members (independent of their membership in the board).

In addition, the board will prepare input for the BFUG concerning its governance and the future of the secretariat (including the review of the BFUG proceedings).

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<sup>5</sup> Please refer to the Terms of Reference of the BCs



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## The Pathfinder Group on the Revision of the Diploma Supplement

The Pathfinder group on the Revision of the Diploma Supplement supports the Council of Europe, the European Commission and UNESCO in reviewing the Diploma Supplement and reports directly to the BFUG. The group will be open for applications by BFUG and consultative members.

### WG and committee membership

BFUG and consultative members are invited to express their interest in participating in one of the WGs or board committees and/or in taking on the work in a steering committee or as co-chair by completing the declaration of participation<sup>6</sup>. **Each declaration of participation should include a short explanation of interest and motivation for participating or for organising an event.** All WGs/BCs are open to participation from BFUG members and consultative members. However the membership in the third WG on “New EHEA goals” is dependent on the commitment to organize an event. Composition should reflect the diversity of the EHEA.

To allow coherence and synergy and to avoid duplication of work, WGs and board committees are interlinked by WG/BC members participating in two WGs/BCs (persons to serve as liaison recorded in the ToRs). In addition, regular exchange between co-chairs is recommended.

Concerning the tasks as WG/BC co-chair or in a steering committee (which the WG/BC co-chairs are member of), it is important to mention that the tasks require strong chairing, leadership and commitment to keeping up contacts and managing the process in between meetings, in close cooperation with the BFUG secretariat. It is recommended that co-chairs are BFUG members. As was the case in the former BFUG period, WG/BC co-chair should be regularly invited to the BFUG board meetings.

### Tentative Schedule<sup>7</sup>

This explanatory note is accompanied by an tentative schedule for the BFUG 2015-2018 period. The schedule shall also serve as a guideline for succeeding co-chairs during the period 2015-2018.

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<sup>6</sup> Please refer to the declaration of participation

<sup>7</sup> Please refer to the tentative schedule



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## Annex

### **Example A:**

*WG on “Implementation of Structural Reforms”, Topic: Qualifications Framework:*

Country A (or organisation A), together with the national stakeholders, proposes to the BFUG secretariat to organise a peer learning activity on qualifications frameworks. The WG selects this event to be held. The steering committee of the WG supports country A in organising the event and designates a coordinator (from the steering committee) who will follow up and report to the WG and to the committee.

### **Example B:**

*WG on “New EHEA goals”, Topic: X*

Country B (or organisation B), together with the national stakeholders, proposes a pathfinder group on topic X. The WG selects the PfG (on the basis of being a new EHEA goal with a European dimension). The steering committee of “new EHEA goals” will designate a coordinator (from the steering committee). Country B invites other countries to take part in the group. The coordinator will take part in the group meetings and reports to the WG and the committee.

### **Example C:**

*WG on “New EHEA goals”, Topic: EHEA-ERA / Knowledge triangle / role of higher education and research in society and for European citizenship*

Country C (or organisation C) is interested in organising a conference on the above mentioned topic. Country D (or organisation D) would like to hold a seminar on the same topic. The WG and its steering committee agree, together with countries C and D, how the topic is best approached and where the activity takes place. A designated coordinator of the steering committee will follow up on the event and will report to the WG and to the committee.