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**MEETING OF THE BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP GROUP  
Dublin, 14 March 2013 - 15 March 2013**

**Draft Outcome of Proceedings**

**Participant list**

<b>Country / Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
Andorra	Martinez Remirez Maria del Mar
Armenia	Karine Harutyunyan
Armenia	Robert Sukiasyan
Austria	Gottfried Bacher
Belgium/Flemish Community	Magalie Soenen
Belgium/French Community	Kevin Guillaume
Belgium/French Community	Chantal Kaufmann
BFUG Secretariat	Gayane Harutyunyan
BFUG Secretariat	Ani Hakobyan
BFUG Secretariat	Ani Hovhannisyan
BFUG Secretariat	Sahakanush Sargsyan
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Aida Durić
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Petar Marić
Bulgaria	<i>Apologies</i>
BUSINESSEUROPE	Irene Seling
Council of Europe	Sjur Bergan
Croatia	Ana Tecilazić Goršić
Croatia	Ivana Krznar
Cyprus	Despina Martidou-Forcier
Czech Republic	Věra Šťastná
Denmark	Rasmus Hasse Nilas Black
Denmark	Jacob Fuchs
EC	Frank Petrikowski
EC	Adam Tyson
EI	Jens Vraa-Jensen

EI	Guntars Catlaks
ENQA	Achim Hopbach
ENQA	Maria Kelo
EQAR	Colin Tück
EQAR	Eric Froment
Estonia	Helen Põllo
EURASHE	Stefan Delplace
Eurydice	David Crosier
ESU	Karina Ufert
ESU	Fernando Galan Polomares
EUA	Michael Gaebel
EUROSTAT	<i>Apologies</i>
EUROSTUDENT	Dominic Orr
Finland	Birgitta Vuorinen
France	Hervé Tilly
France	Hélène Lagier
Georgia	<i>Apologies</i>
Germany	Kathleen Ordnung
Germany	Birger Hendriks
Germany	Peter Greisler
Greece	Christos Skouras
Greece	Eleni Thanasouloupoulou
Holy See	Friedrich Bechina
Holy See	Karolina Kasperaviciute
Hungary	Ernö Keszei
Iceland	Asgerdur Kjartansdottir
Ireland	Christy Mannion
Ireland	Laura Casey
Ireland	Tim Cullinane
Ireland	Brian Power
Ireland	Bryan Maguire
Italy	Marzia Foroni
Italy	Nicola Vittorio
Kazakhstan	Banu Narbekova
Kazakhstan	Gulmira Yeshmuratova
Kazakhstan	Gulzat Kobenova
Latvia	Andrejs Rauhvargers
Latvia	Inese Sture

Liechtenstein	Helmut Konrad
Lithuania	Jolanta Spurgiene
Lithuania	Jolanta Navicleaite
Lithuania	Simona Dzikauskaite
Luxembourg	Germain Dondelinger
Malta	Silvano Cristauro
Moldova	<i>Apologies</i>
Netherlands	Robin Van Ijperen
Norway	Tone Flood Strøm
Norway	Toril Johansson
Poland	Maria Boltruszko
Poland	Bartlomiej Banaszak
Portugal	Maria de Lurdes Correia Fernandes
Romania	Alina Bârgaoanu
Romania	Daniela-Cristina Ghitulica
Romania	Cezar Haj
Serbia	Mirjana Vesovic
Slovak Republic	Peter Plavcan
Slovenia	Stojan Sorcan
Spain	Luis Delgado
Sweden	Selma Memic
Switzerland	Francois Grandjean
Turkey	Saban H. Calis
UNESCO	Paulina Gonzáles-Pose
United Kingdom	Pamela Wilkinson
United Kingdom	Matthew Brown
United Kingdom/Scotland	Susan Whittaker
EIT Thematic Session	
European Commission	Jordi Curell
European Commission	Gudrun Maass
Climate KIC	Richard Templer
KIC InnoEnergy	Torsten Fransson

## **1. Welcome and Introduction to the BFUG Meeting by the Chairs**

### **Welcome by Ireland**

The Chair, Mr Christy Mannion (Ireland), opened the BFUG meeting and welcomed the participants. He thanked the outgoing Co-Chairs Cyprus and Bosnia and Herzegovina for the excellent work and assistance to the present Co-Chairs. The Chair also expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the Croatian BFUG Co-Chair for good cooperation and their hospitality and assistance in arranging the Board meeting in Zagreb, and to the Armenian Secretariat for the preparation of all the documents for the Dublin BFUG meeting.

The Chair advised that the two main priorities of the Irish EU Presidency are quality and equity. It was noted that Bologna reforms in the area of qualifications frameworks and quality assurance as well as social dimension of higher education have always been of keen interest to Ireland. In this regard the Chair noted that the social dimension will be discussed during the EU Education Council to be organised in May. He also drew attention to the Conference on Rankings and the Visibility of Quality Outcomes in the European Higher Education Area held on 30-31 January 2013, which launched EU U-Multirank system and resulted in a broad range of discussions of how to best evaluate core activities of higher education (HE).

After the introduction the Chair asked Mr. Bryan Maguire (Ireland) to introduce the main outcomes of the Presidency Conference on quality assurance in qualifications frameworks organised on 12-13 March 2013 in Dublin.

The BFUG was informed that the two-day conference hosted 150 participants from 35 EU and other regions' countries, who discussed a wide range of issues concerning higher education, vocational education and training (VET) as well as quality assurance in the qualifications frameworks. The conference participants identified eleven conclusions for follow-up, of which two are particularly relevant to the work of the BFUG, and details can be found on the Irish EU Presidency website at the following link:

<http://eu2013.ie/media/eupresidency/content/documents/Quality-Assurance-in-Qualifications-Frameworks-Conclusions.pdf>

**The Chair notified the BFUG that there were 85 participants present at the meeting and formal apologies were received from EUROSTAT, Bulgaria, Georgia and Moldova. The following countries were not present at the meeting: Albania, Azerbaijan, Montenegro, Russian Federation, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Ukraine.**

### **Welcome by Croatia**

Ms Ana Tecilazić Goršić (Croatia) presented the upcoming events that are planned for the period of Croatian BFUG Co-Chairmanship which are as follows:

- Seminar on the Second Bologna Cycle (12 April, Zagreb)

- Promoting Quality Culture in Higher Education Institutions (22-24 May, Zagreb)
- EURASHE Conference (9 -10 May, Split)
- ENIC/NARIC Network Joint Meeting (16 -17 June, Split)

For more details, see the PowerPoint presentation below:



BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_1\_  
Presentation by Croa

## **2. Adoption of the agenda**

Documents: Documents: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_2a [draft agenda]  
BFGU\_IE\_HR\_35\_2b [draft annotated agenda]

**The agenda was adopted without any amendments, though in the course of discussions Ms Věra Šťastná (Czech Republic) asked for the floor to give a brief report on the recent meeting of the EUROSTUDENT V Steering Board.**

## **3. Minutes of the BFUG Board meeting, Zagreb, 15 January 2013 and the draft outcome of proceedings of the BFUG meeting, Nicosia, 28-29 August 2012**

Documents: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_3a [BFUG Board Zagreb draft minutes]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_3b [BFUG Nicosia draft outcome of proceedings]

**A number of comments were made, including a query on participation in the pathfinder group and in relation to the role of the Board.** To the inquiry of the BFUG concerning the third point of the agenda of the Zagreb Board meeting minutes, i.e. **transparency of information and provision of BFUG documents to the third parties and access to the basic line of the Backoffice for the researchers**, the Secretariat noted that a paper will be prepared and presented at the Board/BFUG meetings during the Lithuanian-Georgian BFUG Co-Chairmanship period for further discussions.

**The Zagreb BFUG Board meeting minutes were taken note of with suggestions for minor rephrasing. The BFUG adopted the draft outcome of proceedings of the Nicosia BFUG meeting without any amendments.**

## **4. 2012-2015 BFUG Work Plan – reports to the BFUG and adoption of terms of reference of the WGs/Networks/Ad-Hoc WGs**

### **4.1. WG on Reporting on the Implementation of the Bologna Process**

Documents: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.1 [Report to the BFUG 14-15 March\_ Reporting on the Implementation of the Bologna Process WG]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.1\_Annex1 [ToR of the WG on Reporting on the Implementation of the Bologna Process]

The Chair gave the floor to Mr Andrejs Rauhvargers (Latvia), the Co-Chair of the WG on **Reporting on the Implementation of the Bologna Process**, who informed the BFUG that the first meeting of the WG had been on 16 November 2012 in Riga.

During the meeting the WG members discussed the strong and weak points of the 2012 Implementation report, gathered ideas for the 2015 report as well as produced the timeline of the WG's work.

The WG will consider the introduction of new indicators for employability, social dimension, lifelong learning, portability of grants/loans as well as mobility of students and staff. The WG also expressed willingness to have more scorecard indicators in order to visualise the results and assess the country implementation. The Latvian Co-Chair stressed that it is not an easy task as a scorecard indicator has to be relevant and measurable in order to discriminate between 5 levels of performance.

Concerning the length of the report, the WG Co-Chair recalled the conclusion of the Board that the report should not be shortened at the expense of its accuracy. An important issue for the WG is to retain its independence and to ensure greater autonomy and be less prone to outside influences.

The Co-Chair highlighted that it is crucial that the countries meet the deadline for providing data for the report and reminded that the data collection will be between January-April 2014. The BFUG was informed that the new questionnaire will be based on the previous one, but with a number of improvements. The Co-Chair also noted that the issue of employability is very important but can be difficult to measure as at the moment there are no precise indicators that will allow collecting information from all the countries.

The following comments were made by the BFUG:

- The independence of the WG is very important nevertheless the BFUG should be closely involved in considering and discussing the criteria;
- The WG should be independent from the BFUG member countries but not from the BFUG itself;
- It is important not to narrow the notion of employability as it is not just a link with industry but also to take into account the full range of the labour market;
- The countries should be allowed to have a dialogue with the drafters of the report to advise on the contextual issues.

**The BFUG endorsed the ToR of the WG.**

#### **4.2. 'Structural Reforms' WG**

##### **4.2.a Network of National Correspondents**

##### **4.2.b Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Network**

##### **4.2.c Ad-hoc WG on the revision of the ECTS Users' Guide**

#### **4.2.d Ad-hoc WG on the Third Cycle**

Documents: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.2 [Report to the BFUG 14-15 March\_ Structural Reforms WG]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.2\_Annex2 [ToR of Structural Reforms WG]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.2.a\_Annex3 [ToR of the Network of National Correspondents]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.2.b [Report to the BFUG 14-15 March\_ RPL Network]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.2.b\_Annex4 [ToR of the RPL Network]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.2.c [Report to the BFUG 14-15 March\_ ad-hoc WG on the Revision of the ECTS Users' guide]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.2.c\_Annex5 [ToR of the ad-hoc WG on the Revision of the ECTS Users' Guide]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.2.d [Report to the BFUG 14-15 March\_ ad-hoc WG on the Third Cycle]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.2.d\_Annex6 [ToR of the ad-hoc WG on the Third Cycle]

Mr Sjur Bergan (CoE) welcomed the participants and introduced the Co-Chairing team of the Structural Reforms (SRs) WG, i.e. Bartłomiej Banaszak (Poland), Fr. Friedrich Bechina (Holy See), Sjur Bergan (Council of Europe) and Noël Vercruyssen (Belgium/Flemish Community). The Co-Chair informed the BFUG that the WG held its first meeting on 13-14 December 2012 with high level of participation. Generally the WG plans to have one meeting per semester before the BFUG meetings, while the Co-Chairs intend to meet once between the WG's meetings. The second meeting will be on 22-23 May 2013 in Warsaw, and will focus on transparency instruments. Regarding the third meeting of the WG, the Co-Chairs suggested to hold the meeting in Brussels, on 24-25 September 2013, which will be a joint meeting with the EQF Advisory Group. This time the working group will seek to have a focus on qualifications frameworks.

The Co-Chair noted that the WG intends not to look at each individual policy area separately but its main emphasis will be on interactions and coherence of the four policy areas. The report of the WG on SRs will be submitted in autumn of 2014.

The Co-Chair singled out 2 particular issues for the attention of the BFUG in relation to the terms of reference. One concerned the Network of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and the second one on joint programs and degrees. On the issue of the RPL the Board at its Zagreb meeting recommended that the network should be under the remit of the WG on SRs.

Concerning the issue of joint programs and degrees, the BFUG was informed that there would be a meeting of the Co-Chairs of the Structural Reforms and Mobility and Internationalisation, WGs' together with EUA, ENQA and EQAR directly after the BFUG to decide on responsibilities for

this area. The BFUG would be presented with a proposal during the second day of the BFUG meeting.

Finally the Co-Chair also proposed that the WG should follow-up the proposal adopted during the Irish EU Presidency Conference on quality assurance in qualifications framework i.e. the EQF Advisory Group and the BFUG WG on SRs, in co-operation with ENQA and EQAVET, should review and make proposals to strengthen the common principles of QA to be applied across HE and VET.

Moreover, the BFUG members noted that:

- The Co-Chairs of the WG on SRs should establish close cooperation with the Chairs of the subgroups and networks under the WG's remit to ensure regular updating of the Co-Chairs about the work undertaken in the sub-structures;
- Both the overarching group and its sub-structures should include reference in their ToRs outlining the links with other structures;
- The mandate of the group is very wide, the working group needs to focus on key issues;
- The representatives of the sub-groups should be present at the parent structure meetings and involved in its work when required.

It was also noted that nominations to the Group would be accepted until the end of the day.

During the discussion of the ToR of the WG on SRs the following amendments were agreed:

- **To include the recommendation made during the Irish EU Presidency Conference on quality assurance in qualifications frameworks mentioned above;**
- **To include a reference about the links and coordination mechanisms to the relevant sub-structures;**
- **To return to the issue of joint programming and degrees.**

**As a conclusion the Co-Chair of WG on SRs noted that the ToR of the WG actually served as a frame for the upcoming work. Moreover, the WG will strive for more coherent approach towards the main policy areas and aim to identify the most problematic issues and obstacles to overcome with the support and guidance of the BFUG.**

#### **4.2.a Network of National Correspondents**

Mr Sjur Bergan (CoE) informed that the second meeting of the Network of National Correspondents took place in Dublin on 11 March 2013. Afterwards, Mr Bergan introduced the ToR of the Network and noted that the Network was established to improve the implementation



of qualifications frameworks. The fact that from 47 EHEA countries only 21 were present during the last meeting held in Dublin is a major problem.

It was recommended to include the exact dates of the meetings during the 2012-2015 working period in the ToR.

**The BFUG endorsed the ToR of the Network of National Correspondents with the minor comments.**

### **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Network**

There was not a representative from the Network present at the meeting, during the discussion of the ToR of the Network on Recognition of Prior Learning the BFUG advised:

- To update the ToR by referencing it to the Bucharest Communiqué as well as align the specific tasks as appropriate;
- To update the meeting schedule by including the exact dates of the upcoming meetings;
- To recommend procedures and criteria for facilitating RPL to be included as a task in the ToR;
- To provide regular updates to the WG on Structural Reforms;
- To liaise with other WGs and sub-groups.

**It was agreed that the Network would be contacted and asked to revise the terms of reference on the basis of the BFUG comments.**

### **Ad-hoc WG on the Revision of the ECTS Users' Guide**

Mr Adam Tyson (EC), the Chair of the Ad-hoc WG on the Revision of the ECTS Users' Guide, briefly introduced the report of the WG and informed that the group agreed on its work plan for the further meetings and on the organisation of its work. For the upcoming 2 meetings the group will focus on the 4 main issues:

- Programme design;
- Teaching, learning and assessment;
- Mobility, recognition and grade conversion;
- Links to transparency and recognition tools.

It was also noted that the WG would establish sub-groups around these topics. The Group will aim to make the Guide as useable and as accessible as possible. The WG would try to have the initial draft by the end of September 2013. In the meantime, the WG on the SRs would be regularly updated on the progress of the Ad-hoc WG until submitting the final version by April 2014. It was stressed that the WG realises the difficulties with the transferring, accumulation and attainment of the credits due to the diverse implementation mechanisms between

countries. It was also underlined that there is a challenge to shift the focus to a more student-centred approach based on learning outcomes.

The following points were made by the BFUG:

- Concerns in relation to the application of ECTS to third cycle programmes;
- There is a need to consider the actual impact of the ECTS on the study programmes in reality;
- The ECTS Users' Guide should help the universities to better implement the ECTS.

Concluding the Chair made two main remarks:

- The ECTS Users' Guide should serve as a tool measuring HE programmes rather than as a tool for mobility. Therefore, the group has identified as its first challenge the programme design;
- There is a need to try to identify and indicate in the revised ECTS Users' Guide the extent to which the usage of the ECTS should be applied in the third cycle.

**The ToR of the Ad-hoc WG on the Revision of the ECTS Users' Guide were endorsed.**

### **Ad-hoc WG on the Third Cycle**

The Co-Chair Marzia Foroni (Italy) noted that the Ad-hoc WG on the Third Cycle had its first meeting on 10-11 December 2012 during which the scope and the plan of activities as well as the division of responsibilities among the Co-Chairs were discussed. The ToR of the WG consists of eight tasks including the following:

- Collecting information and mapping exercise of the existing information on the third cycle with the support of EUA and EC,
- Getting more in depth on the mandate given by the ministers regarding the four issues, i.e. transparency, mobility, quality assurance and the internationalisation for the third cycle,
- Discussing the best way to share the group's views and to provide the BFUG with consistent recommendation on these respective issues as appropriate;
- Sustainable funding for third cycle education and the recruitment of doctoral candidates.

It was also noted that data collection on doctoral candidates and the third cycle programmes can be difficult.

Mr Hervé Tilly (France) advised about a possible European seminar on the 2nd cycle and possible common principles for Masters, which France was considering holding as a follow up to the upcoming Zagreb seminar next April 2013. The BFUG will be kept informed.

The discussion that followed highlighted the complications related to QA in the third cycle.

**The ToR of the Ad-hoc WG on the Third Cycle were endorsed.**

#### **4.3 WG on the Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning**

Documents: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.3 [Report to the BFUG 14-15 March\_ Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning WG]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.3\_Annex7 [ToR of the Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning WG]

Ms Karina Ufert (ESU), the Co-Chair of the **WG on Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning**, advised that the first meeting of the WG took place on 13 December 2012 in Brussels with nine country representatives and four organisations present. The Co-Chairs of the WG have already met three times in order to discuss the proceedings.

The initial ToR with its tasks and objectives of the WG were rather broad, so the WG members agreed to be more specific as well as to support the ToR with an action plan. The WG members decided to balance the discussions on the policy areas under the WG's remit as well as the peer learning component.

Among other issues discussed during the first meeting, the WG members also focused on the Peer Learning for Social Dimension (PL4SD) project, which intends to produce a comprehensive overview on national strategies, policies and measures to foster social dimension.

The BFUG was informed that the next meeting of the WG would be held in Dublin on 17 April 2013.

Mr Brian Power (Ireland), the Co-Chair of the **WG on Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning**, briefly introduced the ToR and highlighted that the forthcoming meeting will be focused on Lifelong Learning.

As for the peer learning and review, it was stressed that the WG will have a supervisory role on the pilot project on PL4SD, with a general oversight mandate to further BFUG social dimension goals.

It was noted that the WG will take account of the conclusions of Ministerial Education Council in May covering the social dimension of HE, as it links very closely with the objectives of the WG.

The BFUG made the following contributions:

- In the objectives of the WG, besides pedagogical and didactical requirements, the group should also focus on working, studying and teaching environment as outlined in the Bucharest Communiqué;
- Social dimension not only covers access to HE but also completion.

**The ToR of the WG were endorsed by the BFUG.**

#### **4.4 WG on Mobility and Internationalisation**

##### **4.4.a NESSIE Network**

Documents: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.4 [Report to the BFUG 14-15 March\_Mobility and Internationalisation WG]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.4\_Annex8 [ToR of Mobility and Internationalisation WG]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.4.a [Report to the BFUG 14-15 March\_NESSIE Network]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_4.4.a\_Annex9 [ToR of the NESSIE Network]

Mr Peter Greisler (Germany), the Co-Chair of the **WG on Mobility and Internationalisation**, informed the BFUG that the first meeting was held on 6-7 December 2012 in Berlin and hosted 14 countries and 9 organisations.

The meeting started with the distribution of the work amongst the 3 Co-Chairs and the WG members. The ToR of the WG was also discussed and finalised except for one point, which is whether the task of joint programmes and degrees is appropriate for the WG on Mobility and Internationalisation. It was agreed that, at the conclusion of the first day meeting, the WG Co-Chairs will meet with the Co-Chairs of the WG on Structural Reforms, WG on Reporting as well as EUA, ENQA and EQAR and inform the BFUG tomorrow of proposals.

The Co-Chair noted the three studies presented at the first meeting of the WG:

- A Dutch study on the economic effects of internationalisation in higher education;
- "Internationalisation of Universities" the audit project carried by the German Rectors' Conference;
- "Steeplechase Project" based on the results of the EUROSTUDENT-related investigation analysing the obstacles encountered by the students while being temporarily enrolled abroad.

The BFUG was informed that the next meeting of the WG would be on 15-16 April, 2013 in Berlin.

The Co-Chair proceeded to the presentation of the report of NESSIE and highlighted that according to the 2012-2015 Work Plan, the network is under the remit of the WG on Mobility and Internationalisation.

The BFUG was informed that the annual meeting of the network was organised on 18-19 June 2012 in Bucharest and the four major issues discussed were:

- The proposed EU Student Lending Guarantee Facility;
- NESSIE and the EHEA Mobility strategy 2020;
- Quality assessment criteria for student support abroad as a peer learning activity;
- Review of pending EU cases.

Summing up the Co-Chair noted that the 2013 plenary meeting of NESSIE will be held on 23-24 May in Berlin and the current co-chairing team will be replaced by new Chairs. The agenda of the meeting will inter alia follow the possible implementation of EU Student Loan Guarantee Facility and discuss the recent EU court rulings as well as new pending ECJ cases.

The network's members will also discuss the role of NESSIE concerning assessment of portable student support in Europe, initiated by the WG on Mobility and Internationalisation, as well as concerning the work of the WG on Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning.

**The BFUG agreed that the NESSIE network should report to the WG on Mobility and Internationalisation.**

**The BFUG agreed to endorse the ToR of the WG on Mobility and Internationalisation during the second day of the meeting taking into consideration the amendment on joint degrees and programmes.**

**As for the ToR of NESSIE, the BFUG endorsed the terms of reference subject to the inclusion of references to the Bucharest Communiqué as well as suggested to discuss the revised ToR during the upcoming meeting of the WG on Mobility and Internationalisation on 21-22 October 2013.**

#### **5. EC report on pathfinder group on automatic recognition**

Documents: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_5 [Report to the BFUG 14-15 March\_ Pathfinder group]

Mr Adam Tyson (EC) introduced the draft report on Pathfinder Group on automatic recognition and informed that the group had already met twice and at its first meeting the Group members defined the area and the scope of the work.

The recognition of doctorates for access to post-doctoral positions appears not to present a problem in any of the participating countries. Therefore, the work of the group will focus on academic recognition of qualifications at bachelor and master degrees level.

The group will focus on the ways of making the existing Bologna and EU tools more effective in regard to recognition procedures.

The work of this group will be built upon the existing good practices in automatic recognition both on national and regional levels with the intention to export this experience to other regions.

The group will report to the BFUG in Autumn 2014 and will keep the Structural Working Group informed of its progress in the meantime.

**The Chair noted the information provided by the Commission and that it will regularly inform the Structural Working group of developments.**

#### **6. Steering Committee update on the ESG Revision**

Documents: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_6 [Steering Committee update on the ESG Revision]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_6\_Annex\_Context Scope Purposes ESG February 2013

Mr Fernando Galan Polomares (ESU) updated the BFUG on the ongoing work of the ESG Revision. The first meeting of the group was held in July 2012 during which the seven organisations present agreed to establish two groups, i. e. Steering Group and Drafting Group.

**The Steering group** is composed of one representative from each of the seven organisations and is responsible for ensuring proper consultation. ENQA acts the Secretarial function for the Steering Group meetings and can be reached at [\*\*esg.revision@ehea.info\*\*](mailto:esg.revision@ehea.info).

**The Drafting Group** is a smaller group composed of four experts, involved previously in the MAP-ESG project. The Drafting Group attends the meetings of the Steering Group.

The BFUG was reminded that on 5 March 2013 on behalf of the Steering Group the BFUG Secretariat issued an open call for contributions to the revision process with a deadline of 26 March 2013. The call is especially addressed to the BFUG members but it will also be published on the public website (<http://www.revisionesg.wordpress.com>) created for increasing awareness of the revision process as well as its transparency.

Additionally, the Steering Committee has issued a proposal for a thematic session at the next BFUG meeting in Vilnius, about the revision of the ESG, where interim results of the Group's work will be presented. The initial draft proposal will be presented to the BFUG in its meeting in early 2014.

**The BFUG noted that it is important that the rationale for the revision is included in the report as well as to define quality embracing all the aspects of institutions.**

## **7. Update on proposals in relation to financing and governance recommendations**

Mr Jacob Fuchs (Denmark) started by recalling the decision of the BFUG made during the Nicosia BFUG meeting not to set up an Ad-hoc WG yet but rather to organise two seminars/peer learning activities in order to open a dialogue on the issue. Based on the outcome of the events, the BFUG will further decide on the feasibility of setting up an Ad-hoc WG.

**Proposals for an event are currently under consideration and the intention is that it will be organised during Lithuanian-Georgian BFUG Co-Chairmanship.**

## **8. Future Thematic Sessions**

Document: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_8 [Revision of the ESG]

Ms Gayane Harutyunyan (Head of the Bologna Secretariat) updated the BFUG on the future thematic sessions by recalling that they were means to facilitate implementation of the main goals of the Bologna Process especially on the national and institutional level and since then two sessions have been held and have proved to be a very successful and an efficient tool for discussing specific topics.

Following the discussion held during the Nicosia BFUG meeting, the Secretariat launched a call for proposals for future thematic sessions. The Secretariat has received one concrete proposal on the revision of the ESG to be held during the BFUG meeting in Vilnius, 7-8 November 2013.

The BFUG was also informed that during the Zagreb Board meeting, the Board discussed two topics for future thematic sessions, which were:

- Finance and governance
- Joint programmes and degrees

The Board gave its preference to the thematic session on Finance and Governance to be organised during the BFUG meeting in spring in 2014. Thus, the BFUG was asked to make the final decision.

Mr Achim Hopbach (ENQA) was invited to present details of the proposal for a thematic session on the Revision of the ESG. It was noted that the session will be organised during the BFUG meeting in Vilnius. The main aim of the thematic session is to discuss proposed changes in the principles, purposes, scope and structure of the ESG.

**The BFUG agreed to hold a thematic session on the Revision of the ESG during the BFUG meeting in Vilnius, 7-8 November 2013. The proposal for the thematic session on Finance and Governance to be organised during the BFUG meeting in spring in 2014 should be submitted to the Board during its next meeting organised in Georgia on 17 September 2013.**

## 9. EUROSTUDENT presentation on the Peer Learning for Social Dimension (PL4SD) project

Mr Dominic Orr (EUROSTUDENT) noted that the initiative is based on the "Proposal for a pilot project to promote Peer Learning on the Social Dimension of Higher Education in Europe" from the BFUG 2009-2012 WG on Social Dimension. The results of the project will be useful both for further implementation of the Bologna Process and the 2015 Implementation Report. Furthermore, it was indicated that the project would be carried out in two main parts:

- a) **building up a database** of policy measures, strategies and indicators in SD of HE. For this part relevant information from all the 47 EHEA countries will be collected three times and complemented with current scientific literature of the field available in English and structured using a "grid";
- b) **conducting three country reviews** as a pilot for national in-depth analysis aiming to assist the countries in the development of a coherent, comprehensive and effective national strategy for improving SD of HE.

The results of the project would be disseminated and made accessible for the general public via the project's website, social networking structures and one interim and one final dissemination conference.

The WG on SD and LLL will provide feedback on the research tools and further support the work on the project.

For more information as well as country review schedule, please refer to the embedded files below:



BFUGDublin\_PL4SD\_  
Orr.pptx



PL4SD\_Info\_all\_0703  
13a.pdf

The following comments were made by the BFUG:

- The project is a very good example of how the activities in the Bologna Process and EU context can be brought together;
- The project, which is funded by the Commission, will benefit not only EU countries but also the EHEA as a whole;
- Teachers and their perspective should be included in the project;
- The project should be considered also by those involved in the macroeconomic context.



## **10. BFUG peer learning and peer review initiative**

Document: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_10 [EHEA peer learning and peer review initiative]

Ms Gayane Harutyunyan (Head of the Bologna Secretariat) gave an outline of the paper on the EHEA peer learning and peer review initiative.

It was noted that in Bucharest the Ministers agreed to develop a system of voluntary peer learning and review in countries that request it. The initiative aims to assess the implementation of the Bologna Reforms through the promotion of the good practice across the EHEA.

As for the structure of the document, it contains the mechanism for identifying and selecting the topics as well as existing examples of the models of peer learning and review that countries can use.

It was highlighted that after the adoption of the paper by the BFUG, a work plan for the upcoming years will be developed based on the demand of the volunteering countries. As for the funding, starting from 2014, the EU Erasmus for All programme will have the possibility to provide countries with co-funding under the policy support strand of the programme.

The presentation was followed by several contributions:

- The main challenge of the EHEA is to make the established structures work, thus the objective of both peer learning and peer review should be to respond to that challenge;
- It is important to ensure that the process allows countries to learn from each other;
- The analytical aspect rather than the descriptive aspect of the process should be brought out during the reporting phase of country reviews;
- It was suggested to include teaching staff in carrying out the activities.

It was indicated once again that the EC would co-finance the activity within the EHEA provided that the BFUG agrees on an appropriate work program.

**The paper on the EHEA peer learning and peer review initiative was endorsed by the BFUG and concluded that a work program of the activities should be presented by the end of 2013. This will be considered at the Board and BFUG meetings later this year. Furthermore, it was recommended to include a point in the ToRs of the four main WGs indicating that the WGs would help to identify and set priorities for peer learning and peer review activities concerning their specific areas.**

## **11. BFUG thematic session**

Document: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_11 [outline of the EIT thematic session]

The highlights of the discussion are presented as Annex 1 of the present document.

## **12. Finalisation of the 2012-2015 Work Plan and its substructures**

Documents: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_12 [2012-2015 BFUG Work Plan and its annexes]

The Head of the Bologna Secretariat summarised discussions held around the 2012-2015 Work Plan and noted that the BFUG agreed on the main structure of the Work Plan during its Nicosia meeting.

**The ToRs of the substructures were discussed during the first day of the Dublin BFUG meeting and the BFUG agreed on the endorsement of the ToRs of the four main WGs.**

**Concerning the issue of joint programmes and degrees, it was agreed to set up a small expert group composed of Andrejs Rauhvargers (Latvia), Mark Frederiks, (the Netherlands), Achim Hopbach (ENQA) and Colin Tück (EQAR), that will explore national legislation and practices in trying to identify the main obstacles. The draft report will be presented to both WGs (Structural Reforms and Mobility and Internationalisation) in November which will then discuss the draft report as appropriate in their next WG meetings. The BFUG will be informed on the state of play.**

**Thus, the two WGs will revise their ToRs to reflect this agreement.**

**The ToRs of the Ad-hoc WG on Revision of the ECTS Users' Guide and Ad-hoc WG on the Third Cycle as well as Network of National Correspondents and NESSIE were also endorsed with corresponding recommendations (see above).**

**The BFUG asked the RPL Network to revise its ToR in order to reflect the recommendations made.**

**Finally, it was agreed that all the substructures should report to their 'parent' structure taking into account the streamlined approach of the 2012-2015 Work Plan.**

## **13. Finalisation of the document on the information on the BFUG proceedings**

Document: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_13 [Information on the BFUG proceedings]

While presenting the document, Ms Gayane Harutyunyan (Head of the Bologna Secretariat) recalled the request of the BFUG during its meeting in Nicosia to revise the document under this agenda point. Two main revised points concerned:

1. BFUG Co-Chairing order between Iceland and Kazakhstan
2. Description of the procedures concerning "the BFUG-role and composition"

Regarding the first point, the BFUG was informed that Kazakhstan had kindly agreed to switch its Co-Chairing period with Iceland. Thus, Kazakhstan will be Co-Chairing the BFUG together with Greece during the first semester of 2014, while Iceland will be Co-Chairing with Latvia during the first semester of 2015.

As for the second point, the descriptions had been removed from the main body of the text and annexed to the document since they are not in function any more.

**The BFUG endorsed the document.**

**14. Updates from EC, consultative members, EQAR (written contributions only)**

Documents: BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_14a [CoE update]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_14b [EURASHE update]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_14c [EC update]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_14d [ENQA update]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_14e [ESU update]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_14f [EI update]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_14g [EQAR update]  
BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_14h [EUA update]

**The BFUG took note of the written contributions.**

**15. Next BFUG meeting, Lithuania (Vilnius), 7-8 November 2013 and next BFUG Board meeting, Georgia 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

Ms Jolanta Spurgienė (Lithuania) presented the higher education priorities and the events planned during the period of the Lithuanian BFUG Co-Chairmanship. The overall priorities of the Lithuanian EU Presidency in the field of higher education are quality and efficiency.

It was announced that the next BFUG meeting will take place on 7-8 November 2013 in Vilnius. For more details, see the PowerPoint presentation below:



BFUG\_IE\_HR\_35\_15  
\_Next BFUG Meeting\_

**Any Other Business**

Ms Věra Šťastná (Czech Republic), who was nominated as the BFUG representative in the EUROSTUDENT V Steering Board, gave a brief background on a meeting which took place on 13 February 2013 in Berlin. For more details, see the embedded document below:



130213\_EUROSTUDE  
NT\_Steering\_Board\_

The Chair announced that the Dublin BFUG meeting was the last meeting attended by Mr Birger Hendriks (Germany) and, on behalf of the BFUG, he thanked Mr Hendriks for the great contribution and active involvement as a BFUG member in the Bologna Process since its launch.

**The Chair thanked the BFUG members for their fruitful discussions and contributions.**