

Update CG on Global Policy Dialogue

Katherine Isaacs – co-chair

BFUG Board meeting
Tbilisi, 2 October 2023

Set up of CG on Global Policy Dialogue

- Currently 3 Co-chairs: Belgium/Flemish Community, Italy, Albania (Co-chair from European Commission retired)
- **17 members** take part (Albania, Austria, Belgium/Flemish Community, Belgium/French Community, Cyprus, France, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, UK)
- **6 organisations** (EI-ETUCE, ENQA, ESU, EUA, European Commission, UNESCO)

Meetings of CG on Global Policy Dialogue

- First meeting on 7 June 2021
 - Second meeting on 13 January 2022
 - Third meeting on 1 June 2022
 - Fourth meeting on 24 October 2022
 - Fifth meeting on 16 January 2023
 - Sixth meeting on 6 March 2023
 - Seventh meeting on 26 May 2023, Rome
 - Eighth meeting on 27 September 2023, Rome
 - Ninth meeting to be held in November/December (tbc)
- ⇒ In between work in the subgroups and follow-up of work plan

Composition and focus of the subgroups

- 2 functional subgroups:
 - Tirana Global Policy Forum: chair Linda Pustina (AL), in her role as Vice-Chair of the BFUG, members are the Netherlands, UK, France, EUA
 - Drafting the statement: chair Kathy Isaacs (IT), with Belgium/FL, Belgium/FR, France, Holy See, Ireland, the Netherlands, UK, EC and ETUCE as members
- 3 regional subgroups:
 - Asia: chair Liesbeth Hens (BE/FL), members are Cyprus, France, Germany, Holy See, Romania, The Netherlands, EC, EUA, ESU, and UNESCO
 - Africa: **chair (tbd)**, members are Austria, Belgium/FR, France, Germany, Holy See, Romania, the Netherlands, European Commission, ENQA, EUA and UNESCO
 - Americas: chair Kathy Isaacs (IT), members are Austria, Holy See, Ireland, Malta, Spain, the Netherlands, EC and UNESCO

Outcomes of the subgroups

- Each of the regional subgroups has had **numerous** meetings
- All three continue their ongoing mapping exercises:
 - Contact list global partners
 - Mapping of regional events & activities
 - Mapping of topics/themes and regions (looking for synergies between ongoing processes)
- Policy brief for UNESCO World Higher Education Conference on 'Promoting Policy Dialogue among the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the other world higher education regions' was submitted, May 2022:

<https://whec2022.net/resources/Coordination%20Group%20Global%20Policy%20Dialogue.pdf>

Outcomes of the subgroups

Focus on Africa

- Reflections on the new AU-EU innovation agenda (a set of reflections as part of the public consultation on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda launched at the EU-Africa Business Forum in February 2022), June 2022
- Preparation of 3 EHEA conversations: online events/webinars with 3-4 experts from the EHEA and Africa, representing regional organisations. Duration: 1,5-2 hours.
- Theme: recognition
- Start by inviting regional representatives, later go to more practical implementation at institutional level.
- First “Conversation” webinar, on Academic Recognition held on 12 December 2022
- Second “Conversation” webinar on “*Recognition for Lifelong Learning*” and including digital learning, prior learning, micro-credentials held on 6 June 2023
- Article on the first ‘Conversation’ sent to BFUG members and to partners in Africa, and published on ehea.info
- At present: Finalisation of a second article and preparation of third hybrid Conversation

Outcomes of the subgroups

Focus on Americas

- DAAD Bologna Hub event, “Global Dialogue on Micro-Credentials: Initiatives and Perspectives on Small Learning Units from around the World”, 23 June; co-chair K. Isaacs lead of Americas section
- First Colloquium between CG/EHEA and Latin American countries, 5/12/2022, in Montevideo, hosted by Uruguay, with representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, topic “Enhancing Global Policy Dialogue on Higher Education”
- CG/EHEA Session at the CHEA (US accreditation body) Annual Conference in Washington DC on 25 January, topic “Let's Talk: fostering global dialogue about diversity in a common framework”
- Participation in EU-LAC Summit, Santiago de Compostela, 4-5 May 2023
- Planning meeting with UNESCO IESALC and regional UNESCO representatives on occasion of the first Assembly of the UNESCO Global Recognition convention
- Second Colloquium between CG/EHEA and Latin American countries, planned in fall 2023-early spring 2024
- Participation in regional CESPE +5 meeting, Brasilia

Outcomes of the subgroups so far

Focus on Asia

- Conference of Central Asian Ministers of Education «Central Asian Higher Educational Area: regional cooperation, national reforms», 18 June 2022; 2 co-chairs participated (K. Isaacs & L. Pustina),
 - Expanding the Bologna Process in the Central Asian Countries: Forms, Methods
 - Trends in the Development of Higher Education in the Bologna Process
- EU-SHARE conference on micro-credentials, 20-21 July 2022, Bangkok; 1 co-chair and 2 group members joined (M. Soenen, EUA and Germany)
 - Micro-Credentials – the European Perspective
- ASEM process: ISOM meeting 24-25 November 2022, Malta -> looking for synergies, to be further discussed among group members
- ASEM expert group on Recognition and balanced mobility, 13 February 2023 online
- Invited speakers to CG meeting from CAHEA (Central Asian Higher Education Area and from ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)
- Joint meeting of the CG with ASEF in Rome, September 27-29 2023.

Plans and on-going work of the CG

Regional Subgroups continue their various activities

Functional Subgroups are working:

- GPForum has met and a draft program was discussed at the 8th CG meeting and in the Joint CG-ASEF meeting.
- GPStatement subgroup has met frequently and presented its Draft 3 Statement for discussion at the 8th CG meeting and in the Joint CG-ASEF meeting.

A functional workstream dealing with communications, invitations and content fine-tuning needs to be set up.

A large-scale consultation on perceptions of the EHEA and ideas about collaboration with it, involving stakeholders, authorities and private persons – students and teachers – in the countries outside of the EHEA has been held, thanks to the support of IN-GLOBAL. The results are now being elaborated and will feed into the Statement and proposals for the Tirana Communiqué.

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Plans and on-going work of the CG

Plans are being made for other 'regional' conferences in the fall 2023 and early spring 2024, supported by IN-GLOBAL, in addition to the Joint meeting with ASEF in September 2023.

A new regional subgroup for Arab states/Middle East and North Africa is proposed: a regional meeting organized in conjunction with UNESCO is planned for the spring (to be followed by a regional conference after the Tirana ministerial)

The CG has proposed organizing dialogue/meetings on matters of common interest between **global interlocutors** and the **EHEA WGs**. The first meeting, between the Co-chairs of the Social Dimension WG and the USA «Institute for Evidence-based change» (IEBC) was held online on 7 July.

Other WGs are invited to use this opportunity!!

Thank you!
The Co-chairs

