

Working Group to support the implementation of the Roadmap for San Marino's accession to the EHEA - Update to the BFUG

Purpose of the working group

The purpose of the working group is to follow up the San Marino Roadmap together with the Sammarinese authorities and to assist the Sammarinese authorities in implementing the roadmap and in developing specific policy areas. The working group on San Marino Roadmap also assists in peer-learning activities and facilitates cooperation.

The work of the working group plan builds on timelines of the Roadmap and on the implementation plans of Sammarinese authorities. The roadmap outlines two sets of actions. A first set concerns the launching of implementation measures, for which the deadline is generally 1 June 2021. A second set of actions concerns the completion of these actions by 1 November 2023.

Progress of the work

So far the working group has met five times. Next meeting is scheduled to be held in September – October 2023.

Time and place	Tasks
17 May 2021, online	Establish a timetable for the implementation of the San Marino Roadmap
10-11 November 2021, San Marino	Update on the implementation in San Marino, meeting with University of San Marino staff and students, discussions and peer learning with Sammarinese stakeholders, identification of possible support measures needed
21 March 2022, online	Update on the implementation in San Marino, feedback on peer support sessions
26-27 September 2022, San Marino	Update on the implementation in San Marino, peer learning and support activities, meeting with stakeholders on NQF and analysis of progress in the implementation of the Roadmap
14- 15 February 2023, San Marino	Update on the implementation in San Marino, analysis of progress in the implementation of the Roadmap. Meeting with the members of the Parliament, Peer learning. Discussion on the structure of the final report.
September-October 2023, Andorra	Follow-up on the implementation, draft final report of the WG for discussion.

The work is progressing as planned and the working group has covered all aspects of the Roadmap. San Marino has demonstrated willingness and ability to develop higher education system along the lines agreed in the roadmap. Cooperation between Sammarinese authorities and the WG is working well and discussions are held in an open atmosphere. Working group has had a chance to meet with relevant stakeholders and decision makers including some members of the Parliament. Authorities of San Marino have found the peer learning sessions organized by the WG useful and complementary to the work of TPGs.

A brief summary of the current state of play of the implementation in San Marino:

- A new law on Higher Education and a statutory decree for the University of San Marino have been drafted. The first Parliament reading of the new law was conducted in January 2023. The approval of the new law is expected by June 2023 and the approval of the statutory decree is soon after that.
- The NQF draft has gone through the second consultation with all the relevant stakeholders. Two foreign experts have been nominated and they have commented on the draft. The approval of the NQF degree is expected right after the new law on higher education.
- Development of the internal quality assurance system of the University of San Marino is ongoing. Selection of the External Quality Assurance Agency will be finalized by November 2023.
- San Marino has reviewed its policies and actions against Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education.
- San Marino has joined the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees project aiming to strengthening the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention, article 7.

Final report and preliminary suggestions for the Tirana Communiqué

The WG aims to present a draft final report in the Madrid BFUG meeting 16-17 November 2023. Depending on the progress of the implementation in San Marino there might be a need to make some minor additions and updates in early 2024 but the main content and assessment of the implementation should be ready for the BFUG meeting in the fall.

The working group has agreed on the structure of the final report. The final report will follow the structure of the roadmap and assess the implementation of the reforms of qualification framework, quality assurance, recognition of qualifications, higher education governance, lifelong learning and social dimension of higher education. The goal is also highlight good practices found in San Marino. The final report will also present conclusions and recommendations.

The working group has agreed on two preliminary suggestions for the Tirana Communiqué preparation:

- The implementation status of the agreed roadmap and work done by San Marino in implementing the reforms.
- A Roadmap should be an instrument for all further accession.
 - Accessing the EHEA with an agreed Roadmap and with a support of the working group of the BFUG has proven to be useful practice. A roadmap gives a new member country a clear indication of the next steps and sets a clear timeline for the reforms. A small working group appointed by the BFUG can cooperate and assist a new member in reforms.