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**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP GROUP  
Tbilisi, 17 September 2013, 09:00 – 17:00**

**Draft minutes**

**List of participants**

<b>Country/ Organisation</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Armenia	Karine Harutyunyan
BFUG Secretariat	Gayane Harutyunyan
BFUG Secretariat	Ani Hovhannisyan
Council of Europe (CoE)	Sjur Bergan
Croatia	Ana Tecilazić Goršić
ESU	Rok Primožič
EUA	Michael Gaebel
EURASHE	Stefan Delplace
European Commission (EC)	Adam Tyson
European Commission (EC)	Frank Petrikowski
Georgia	Tamar Sanikidze
Georgia	Marina Chitashvili
Georgia	Elene Jibladze
Georgia	Nugzar Chitaia
Georgia	Nino Svanadze
Greece	Christos Skouras
Ireland	Laura Casey
Kazakhstan	Rimma Seidakhmetova
Kazakhstan	Kymbat Beisekina
Lithuania	Jolanta Spurgienė
Lithuania	Jolanta Navickaitė
Reporting on the Bologna Process Implementation WG	Germain Dondelinger
Structural Reforms WG	Sjur Bergan
Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning WG	Rok Primožič
Mobility and Internationalisation WG	Peter Greisler

Ms. Tamar Sanikidze, Minister of Education and Science of Georgia welcomed the participants to the BFUG Board meeting and wished them a fruitful meeting. The Minister

outlined the main priorities of Georgia in the field of higher education and stated that the majority of the higher education institutions are successfully implementing the Bologna principals. The Minister also expressed the importance of the Georgian delegation to be involved in the Bologna Process, therefore addressed the BFUG Board with a wish to include the Georgian delegates in one of the WGs.

Ms. Marina Chitashvili, the Vice Rector of the Tbilisi State University (TSU), hosting the meeting, welcomed the BFUG Board members to the TSU and stressed that the Bologna Process in Georgia was initiated by the TSU.

The Georgian Co-Chair, Ms. Elene Jibladze opened the BFUG Board meeting by informing the participants that the meeting will be jointly chaired by Ms. Jolanta Spurgienė, the Lithuanian Co-Chair. The Lithuanian Co-Chair continued by congratulating the outgoing BFUG Co-Chairs, Ireland and Croatia, for the productive six-month period of the BFUG Co-Chairmanship and also for the smooth handover of the BFUG Co-Chairing responsibilities to Lithuania and Georgia, which took place on 16 September 2013 in Tbilisi. The Co-Chair also expressed her gratitude to the Secretariat for the good preparation of all the documents for the Tbilisi Board meeting.

**The Board was notified that there were 25 participants present at the meeting.**

### **1. Information by the outgoing BFUG Chairs: Ireland and Croatia**

Ms. Laura Casey (Ireland) stressed the main items and developments since the last BFUG meeting held in Dublin on 14-15 March 2013, which are as follows:

- Endorsement of the ToRs of the 2012-2015 BFUG Work Plan structures and substructures except for the ToR of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Network;
- Endorsement of the paper on the EHEA peer learning and peer review initiative, based on which the Secretariat has developed the draft work programme of the activities;
- Kosovo's\* approach concerning their intention to be considered for the EHEA membership.

The Irish Co-Chair thanked Croatia for the support during the Irish-Croatian BFUG Co-Chairmanship and wished the incoming BFUG Co-Chairs, Lithuania and Georgia, all the best. At the same time the Irish Co-Chair expressed her gratitude to the Secretariat colleagues for the work they do.

Ms. Ana Tecilazić Goršić (Croatia), stressed that Croatia had a great opportunity to be partners with Ireland and highlighted that the Co-Chairmanship was used to promote the Bologna Process at the national level in Croatia, by organising the following events:

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\* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

- BFUG Board meeting (17 January 2013, Zagreb);
- Seminar on the Second Bologna Cycle (12 April, Zagreb);
- Promoting Quality Culture in Higher Education Institutions (22-24 May 2013, Zagreb);
- EURASHE Conference (9 -10 May 2013, Split);
- ENIC/NARIC Network Joint Meeting (16 -17 June 2013, Split).

Last but not least the Croatian Co-Chair wished success to Lithuania and Georgia as incoming BFUG Co-Chairs.

**The BFUG Board members took note of the information provided by the outgoing BFUG Chairs.**

## **2. Information by the incoming BFUG Chairs: Lithuania and Georgia**

Ms. Jolanta Spurgienė, the incoming Lithuanian Co-Chair, recalled the general priorities of the Lithuanian EU Presidency and emphasised the ones in education, which are quality and efficiency.

The official events planned during the Lithuanian EU Presidency are:

- Conference on Higher Education "European Higher Education in the World" on 5-6 September, 2013;
- Conference on General Education on 9-10 September, 2013;
- BFUG meeting: 7-8 November 2013;
- Conference on VET on 12-13 November, 2013;
- DG Vocational Education and Training on 11-12 November 2013;
- DG General Education on 2-3 December 2013;

It was stressed that the objective of the meeting of the DG on Higher Education, which will be held on 23-24 September 2013, will be to debate on higher education funding focusing on the issues of sustainability, efficiency and equity, addressing reforms of the modernisation of higher education in the EU Member States. Thus, the conclusions of the meeting might be useful for the component of the 2012-2015 BFUG Work Plan-Financing and Governance of HE.

**The BFUG Board members took note of the information provided by the BFUG Chair.**

## **3. Adoption of the agenda**

Documents:      BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_3a [draft agenda]  
                          BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_3b [draft annotated agenda]

**The agenda of the meeting was adopted without changes.**

**4. Draft minutes of the BFUG Board meeting, Zagreb, 15 January 2013 and draft outcome of proceedings of the BFUG meeting, Dublin, 14-15 March 2013**

Documents: BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_4a [BFUG Board Zagreb draft minutes]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_4b [BFUG Dublin draft outcome of proceedings]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_4b\_Annex1 [Thematic session on EIT]

**The Zagreb BFUG Board meeting minutes were adopted without any amendments. The Board also took note of the draft outcome of proceedings of the Dublin BFUG meeting and suggested some minor rephrasing.**

**5. 2012-2015 BFUG Work Plan and Terms of References of the WGs/Ad-hoc WGs/Networks; Draft proposal for the coordination meeting of all the 2012-2015 BFUG Work Plan structures after the Vilnius BFUG meeting**

Documents: BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_5a [Work Plan 2012-2015]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_5a\_Annex1 [ToR of the Reporting on the Implementation of the Bologna Process WG]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_5a\_Annex2 [ToR of the Structural Reforms WG]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_5a\_Annex3 [ToR of the Network of National Correspondents (NQF)]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_5a\_Annex4 [ToR of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Network]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_5a\_Annex5 [ToR of the Revision of the ECTS Users' Guide Ad-Hoc WG]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_5a\_Annex6 [ToR of the Third Cycle Ad-Hoc WG]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_5a\_Annex7 [ToR of the Social Dimension & Lifelong Learning WG]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_5a\_Annex8 [ToR of the Mobility and Internationalisation WG]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_5a\_Annex9 [ToR of the Network of Experts on Student Support in Europe (NESSIE)]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_5b [Draft proposal for the coordination meeting]

Ms. Gayane Harutyunyan, the Head of the Bologna Secretariat, in brief outlined the main decisions adopted during the Dublin BFUG meeting concerning the 2012-2015 BFUG Work Plan. The ToRs of the WGs were endorsed, while:

- ToR of NESSIE was subject to revision according to the Bucharest Communiqué;

- ToR of the RPL Network was not endorsed by the BFUG and the Network was asked to align its ToR to the Bucharest Communiqué.

Following the recommendations made by the BFUG, the RPL Network incoming and outgoing Chairs revised the ToR in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Structural Reforms WG. Thus, the ToR will be first discussed during the Network's upcoming meeting on 26-27 September 2013 in Krakow and later on presented to the BFUG during its meeting in Vilnius, 7-8 November 2013 for final endorsement.

As for NESSIE, during its annual meeting held on 23-24 May 2013, both Peter Greisler, the Co-Chair of the Mobility and Internationalisation WG and Brian Power, the Co-Chair of the Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning WG were present for facilitation of the links of the Network with the two working groups.

On 25 September 2013 NESSIE Co-Chairs handover meeting will take place in Zagreb, where the revised ToR will be discussed together with their upcoming two-year work plan.

**To the suggestion of the Head of the Secretariat to invite one of the Co-Chairs of NESSIE to present the Network's activities during the Vilnius BFUG meeting, the Board stressed that streamlined structure of the 2012-2015 Work Plan expected that substructures should report to their 'parent' structure. Thus, there is no need to invite the Co-Chairs of the Networks to the BFUG meetings unless there is a specific issue about a particular Network.**

Ms. Gayane Harutyunyan also brought to the attention of the Board the proposal of the coordination meeting of the Co-Chairs of the 2012-2015 Work Plan structures, while highlighting the purpose of the meeting as well as the expected outcomes.

**The Board favoured the idea of having a coordination meeting, which will most probably be a half day meeting organised a day before the BFUG meeting in Athens on 8 April 2013.**

## **6. Reports from the Chairs of the Working Groups on Reporting on the Bologna Process Implementation, 'Structural Reforms', Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning, Mobility and Internationalisation**

- Documents: BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_6a [Report of the Reporting on the Implementation of the Bologna Process WG]  
 BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_6b [Report of the Structural Reforms WG]  
 BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_6c [Report of the Social Dimension & Lifelong Learning WG]

BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_6d [Report of the Mobility and  
Internationalisation WG]

Mr. Germain Dondelinger (Luxemburg), the Co-Chair of the **Reporting on the Implementation of the Bologna Process WG**, informed the Board that the second meeting of the working group (2 July 2013, Luxemburg), discussed the content and the process for developing the 2015 Implementation Report, which should be more outcome-oriented and focus on changes that have taken place since the last report.

It was noted that considerable progress was made identifying the indicators to be included in the 2015 Report. All the 2012-2015 BFUG Work Plan structures have been asked to make proposals for any new scorecard indicators that they would consider to be useful in the 2015 Report. As for the development of the Report, the data collectors (Eurydice, Eurostat and Eurostudent) confirmed that all practical and technical arrangements were on track to produce the report.

Thus, the forthcoming next steps of the WG are:

- Ensure that all BFUG working groups are satisfied with the indicators related to their sections of the report;
- Report on the progress of the WG during the Vilnius BFUG meeting;
- Revise and finalise the questionnaire at WG's next meeting in Riga, on 15 November 2013;
- Send out questionnaires to countries in January 2014.

The deliberations that followed highlighted the following points:

- It is important that the 2015 Report both shows the changes that have taken place since the 2012 Report as well as describes the reality across the EHEA;
- It should be taken into consideration that the 2015 Report should help the countries make further progress;
- As indicated in the timeline of the WG, the first discussion of the structure of the Implementation Report is on 2 July 2014, which seems to be late. However, the date was chosen in order to have some work done before the first discussions.
- The follow-up on the potential scorecard indicators and the timeline of their development will be the same as of the former exercises.

Mr. Sjur Bergan (CoE), the Co-Chair of the **Structural Reforms WG**, highlighted that the WG is the most complex and large one and so far the WG had two meetings and in between those meetings the Co-Chairs met twice. The second meeting (22-23 May 2013, Warsaw) focused on transparency instruments and their relationship to the other policy areas of structural reforms. The Board was informed that the next meeting of the WG, which will focus on the qualifications frameworks (24-25 September 2013, Brussels) will also include a joint session with the EQF Advisory group in the afternoon of 25 September 2013. The meeting will also discuss the first outline of the final report to be submitted to the BFUG in

autumn 2014 and it will aim to cover the main elements in the ToR as well as make recommendations within each of the four main policy areas covered by the group as well as bring the four policy areas together.

The Co-Chair briefly introduced the main outcomes of the meetings of the Ad-hoc WGs and Networks under the remit of the Structural Reforms WG: Ad-hoc WG on the Third Cycle, Ad-hoc WG on the Revision of the ECTS Users' Guide, RPL Network, NQF Network.

In the end, the Co-Chair suggested that the Board recommends to the BFUG that Georgia be welcome to join the Structural Reforms WG per its request.

The Board emphasised the importance of investigating how the qualifications frameworks can improve employability. The importance of additional data and research as well as the role of the BFUG as a potential resource was stressed in this relation. The Board also outlined that it is important to clarify the structure of the 2015 Implementation Report and find out how it will address and approach this kind of topics.

Concerning the low participation in the NQF Network it was agreed to issue a call to the BFUG members with a request to update their nominations, which will be an extra facilitation measure.

Mr. Rok Primožič, the Chairperson of ESU, briefly introduced the report of the **Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning WG** on behalf of the WG's Co-Chairs. The Board was informed that the second meeting of the WG was organised on 17 April 2013 in Dublin with 12 country representatives and 7 organisations present.

The following issues were discussed during the meeting:

- EU Council conclusions on the social dimension;
- Lifelong learning in the Bologna Process;
- Social dimension and lifelong learning strategy/framework;
- Social dimension and lifelong learning work plan;
- Update on the PL4SD project;
- Change of Co-Chair.

The third meeting of the Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning WG will be held on 13-14 November 2013 in Ghent, Belgium in conjunction with a meeting of the Expand-O project, which also involves peer learning for the social dimension.

The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Peter Greisler (Germany), the Co-Chair of the **Mobility and Internationalisation WG**, who advised that during the second meeting of the WG (15-16 April 2013, Germany), the WG members discussed the following aspects:

- Improvement of the information on study programmes and admission systems in the EHEA;
- Definition of Staff mobility;

- Portability of grants and loans;
- Further internationalisation developments;
- Quality of mobility.

Moreover, it was stressed that a definition of staff mobility has been drafted and it will be discussed during the WG's next meeting (21-22 October 2013, Madrid).

## **7. Updates on the Pathfinder group on automatic recognition, Steering Committee on the ESG revision, Financing and Governance of HE**

Documents: BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_7a [Report of the Pathfinder Group on automatic recognition]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_7b [Update on Financing and Governance of Higher Education]

Mr. Adam Tyson (EC) updated on the activities of the **Pathfinder group on automatic recognition**. During the last meeting three surveys were presented which helped identify the degree of system-level recognition already in operation. In general, the surveys showed that the legal frameworks to support automatic recognition exist and are applied by the countries in similar ways. Thus, it is possible to identify transferable practices that could be taken up by other countries.

For the next phase of the work programme, Pathfinder group members will survey a selection of HEIs on their recognition processes and access/admission decisions, hear results of student surveys on recognition and reflect on the potential for trialling new approaches to automatic recognition within the Pathfinder group.

The draft final report of the Pathfinder Group will be presented to the BFUG in autumn 2014. The Group will also keep the Structural Reforms WG informed of its progress in the meantime.

The Board noted that the Pathfinder group on automatic recognition performs an important task, while trying to identify the barriers to recognition as well as identifying different steps for smoother recognition. Although in the nine country members of the group the issue of the recognition of qualifications on the level of bachelor degree is not problematic, the broader selection of countries would reveal that the situation with the recognition at this particular level is complex across the EHEA. At the same time it was noted that while speaking about the master degree, the recognition of qualifications by the employers outside the recognition centres should be considered.

Mr. Stefan Delplace (EURASHE) updated on the progress of the **ESG revision**, while informing that the initial draft as well as the scope of the revised ESG will be thoroughly discussed during the next meeting of the Steering Committee on 16 October 2013. The Group also intends to produce a rationale which will explain the evolution of the process of the revised version of the ESG as well as show the input of the seven organisations. As for the introductory part, the revised ESG should have a wider context and reflect the new



realities. The revised ESG will be presented at the thematic session held during the Vilnius BFUG meeting.

The Board noted that the compliance with the previous version of the ESG is important at the same time it is necessary to observe how extensive the modifications of the revised ESG would be. It was also highlighted that there would be little time for delegations to comment on the draft before the thematic session. The importance to clarify the next procedural steps was stressed as well.

The update on the **Financing and Governance of HE** was presented by Ms. Karine Harutyunyan (Armenia), who introduced the proposal on the peer learning (PL) event on Financing and Governance of HE. The Board favoured the idea to organise a thematic session in the form of PL event during the BFUG meeting in Athens (7-8 April 2014).

Mr. Adam Tyson (EC) advised that the Commission is in the middle of a study the aim of which is to look at the impact on the quality of HE, different modes of funding and cost sharing between different sources of funding. The interim results of the survey will be discussed during the DG on Higher Education which will be held on 23-24 September 2013 in Vilnius. Before the BFUG meeting in Athens the report of the survey will be available, thus, it could be quite useful for the proposed event on Financing and Governance of HE.

Afterwards, Ireland and Croatia indicated their willingness to have case presentations of the reforms on financing of HE during the thematic session.

#### **8. Draft work program of the activities of peer learning and review initiative**

Document: BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_8a [Draft work program of the activities of the EHEA peer learning and review initiative]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_8a\_Annex1 [EQAR's proposal for peer learning and review]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_8b [ EHEA Structural Reform WG's proposal for peer learning and review]

Ms. Gayane Harutyunyan, the Head of the Bologna Secretariat, introduced the draft work programme of the EHEA peer learning and reviewing by recalling the decision of the BFUG.

The Board was informed that the role of the WGs is very important in determining the work programme of the activities. Only a few countries and organisations responded to the call issued by the Secretariat for the proposals for peer learning and peer reviewing. The following points were outlined by the Board:

- It is recommended to have the time schedule of the proposals;
- It is important to avoid overlapping with the work that is being carried out by the WGs;
- It is necessary to consider the format of the proposed events;
- The involvement of the universities in the peer learning and review activities is important.

The Board favoured the proposal of the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and EQAR to organise a peer learning event on QA and Recognition. Concerning the procedures for funding of the event, the Board was informed that within the Erasmus+ program a new initiative/element is developed which will support the EHEA reforms. Within that strand the countries will be able to apply for funding of different types of activities. The timing for the calls for the proposals will be end of December 2013 with a deadline of end of February/March 2014. Thus, the implementation phase will start after the second semester of the 2014.

**The BFUG Secretariat will revise the paper according to the feedback to be considered by the BFUG in Vilnius.**

**9. Transparency of information and provision of BFUG documents to the third parties and access to the basic line of the Backoffice for the researchers**

Document: BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_9 [Transparency of information provision]

The Head of the Bologna Secretariat presented the main outline of the paper prepared by the Secretariat based on the requests from the Board and BFUG members.

The paper introduces the three restricted areas linked with the Bologna Process that can be accessed from the EHEA web-site (Backoffice, Archive, Forum) as well as evokes a number of questions regarding the transparency of information and provision of BFUG documents to the third parties. In addition the paper highlights the importance of the need to promote the EHEA web-site through different internet resources connected to the Bologna Process/EHEA and education in Europe in general.

The Board advised that after the endorsement of the minutes/draft outcome of proceedings of the meetings, documents which were also endorsed at meetings of the BFUG/Board as well as the structures of the 2012-2015 Work Plan, should be made freely accessible in the Archive except for the documents containing information on the application of the countries for the EHEA membership and draft version of the Communiqués. Moreover, the EHEA website as well as the Archive should be made more user-friendly.

**10. Preliminary information on the preparation of the Ministerial Conference and the Fourth Bologna Policy Forum in Yerevan in 2015**

Document: BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_10 [Preliminary information on the preparation of the Ministerial Conference and Fourth Bologna Policy Forum in Yerevan in 2015]

Ms. Karine Harutyunyan (Armenia) presented the preliminary information on the preparation of the Ministerial Conference and the Fourth Bologna Policy Forum in 2015.

By the decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia an Intergovernmental Steering Committee has been established, which involves all relevant ministries and agencies that will be involved in the smooth organisation of the events. The Intergovernmental Steering Committee will start its work from January 2014.

The Board noted that:

- The topics of the events should be decided by the BFUG when discussing the 2015 Yerevan Communiqué. Additionally it is essential not to steer away from the controversial issues as well as choose topics that will bind everybody and ensure high participation of both the Ministers of the EHEA and the participants of the BPF;
- A subgroup already established under the Mobility and Internationalisation WG will support the preparatory work of the Fourth BPF.

### **11. Participation in the BFUG/Board and WGs/Ad-hoc WGs/Networks meetings**

Document: BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_11 [Participation in the BFUG, BFUG Board, WGs', Networks', Ad-hoc WGs' meetings]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_11\_Annex1 [Participation in the BFUG, BFUG Board, WGs', Networks', Ad-hoc WGs' meetings]

The Board stressed the importance of the paper prepared by the Secretariat as well as the survey carried out on the mid-term figures providing evidence to the participation rates of the representatives of the EHEA countries/partner organisations in the meetings held after the Bucharest Ministerial Conference.

It was advised that the paper should be presented during the BFUG meeting in Vilnius as the participation rate of some of the countries is not encouraging. It is necessary to find out the reasons for non-participation to the meetings as the involvement of 47 member countries as well as partner organisations is vital for the success of the EHEA reforms and their sustainability.

It was stressed that the exact timing of the meetings indicated in the survey should be added to the document. Finally the Board recommended that the Minister of Education and Science of Lithuania prepares a letter to be sent to those EHEA Ministers of HE whose countries demonstrated low participation rate.

### **12. Update on the EHEA accession issues**

Document: BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_12 [Update on the EHEA accession issues]  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_12\_Annex1  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_12\_Annex2  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_12\_Annex3  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_12\_Annex4  
BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_12\_Annex5

Ms. Gayane Harutyunyan, the Head of the Bologna Secretariat, briefly introduced the issue under this point of agenda, which underlined:

- Criteria for the EHEA inclusion;
- Deadline for the EHEA accession application;
- Revision of the document "Information to be provided by countries applying for accession to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)" (prepared jointly by the Council of Europe and former BFUG Secretariat);
- Update on the interested countries: At this stage two countries officially expressed their intention to be considered for the EHEA membership, namely Belarus and Kosovo\*. Moreover, the BFUG Secretariat was also informally approached by the representatives of San Marino regarding their intention to apply for the EHEA accession to be considered at the 2015 Yerevan Ministerial Conference.

The Board highlighted the following points:

- The decision for admission to the EHEA is made by the Ministers, thus it is important that all the delegations participating in the Yerevan Ministerial Conference have the political backing from their Ministries;
- The criteria for the EHEA accession defined by the Ministers in the 2003 Berlin Communiqué are still valid;
- The BFUG Secretariat should provide technical assistance to the countries interested in the accession to the EHEA.

The Board advised that the deadline for applications should be most probably in November 2014. By that time the BFUG should formally take note of the received applications from the countries and then make a decision to set up a committee, which will undertake the evaluation process.

It was also recommended that the BFUG Secretariat analysed the document on the "Information to be provided by countries applying for accession to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)" and suggested necessary updates.

Last but not least the Board agreed that the status of the countries applying for the EHEA membership should not be discussed at the BFUG meeting in Vilnius, only procedural issues should be taken up.

### **13. Draft agenda of the BFUG meeting, Vilnius, 7-8 November 2013**

Document: BFUGBoard\_LT\_GE\_36\_13 [draft agenda of the Vilnius BFUG meeting]

As the host country, Lithuania briefly introduced the main topics on the draft agenda for the Vilnius BFUG meeting (7-8 November 2013).

#### **14. Next BFUG Board meeting, Astana, 12 February 2014**

Ms. Kymbat Beisekina (Kazakhstan) presented the outline of the priorities of Kazakhstan during the BFUG Co-Chairmanship as well as the main events to be organised.

For more details, see the PowerPoint presentation below:



PPT\_Kazakhstan.ppt

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#### **15. Point of information related to the priorities of the Greek EU Presidency and planning of the BFUG activities in the first semester of 2014, under the Greek and Kazakh Chairmanship**

Mr. Christos Skouras (Greece) introduced the overall priorities of Greece during its EU Presidency in the field of higher education which are to improve quality and efficiency. It is also planned to focus on the benchmark of language and teachers' education together with the attractiveness of the Training of Trainers (ToT). Another important priority is social cohesion in order to prevent early school leaving and creativity and innovation. In HE the country also intends to focus on the U-Multirank.

The main events to be organised during the Greek EU Presidency are:

- Conference on the EU program Erasmus+, January 16-17 2014;
- BFUG meeting in Athens, 7-8 April 2014;
- Conference on U-Multirank, 19 May 2014;
- DG of HE meeting, 20-21 May 2013;

#### **16. Any other business**

**The Chair noted that there were no items to be included in 'AOB' and closed the meeting, while thanking the hosts, the outgoing and incoming BFUG Co-Chairs as well as the Secretariat.**