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## BFUG BOARD MEETING LXX

2 April 2020

Online, hosted by Ukraine

Minutes

### List of participants

	Delegation	First name	Family name(s)
1.	BFUG Co-chair (Croatia)	Leonardo	Marušić
2.	BFUG Co-chair (Croatia) and BICG Co-chair	Ana	Tecilazić Goršić
3.	BFUG Co-chair (Ukraine)	Olexandr	Smyrnov
4.	BFUG Co-chair (Ukraine)	Kateryna	Suprun
5.	BFUG outgoing Co-chair (Finland)	Maija	Innola
6.	BFUG outgoing Co-chair (Finland)	Jonna	Korhonen
7.	BFUG outgoing Co-chair (Turkey)	Elif	Huntürk
8.	BFUG outgoing Co-chair (Turkey)	Tuncay	Döğeroğlu
9.	BFUG incoming Co-chair (Germany)	Anja	Diek
10.	BFUG incoming Co-chair (Germany)	Peter	Greisler
11.	BFUG incoming Co-chair (Germany)	Frank	Petrikowski
12.	BFUG incoming Co-chair (United Kingdom)	Bethan	Dinning
13.	BFUG incoming Co-chair (United Kingdom, Scotland)	Michael	Watney
14.	BFUG incoming Co-chair (United Kingdom)	Pamela	Wilkinson
15.	BFUG Vice-chair (Italy) and CG1 on Global Policy Dialogue Co-chair	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
16.	Council of Europe	Sjur	Bergan
17.	ESU and AG1 Co-chair	Robert	Napier

	<b>Delegation</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Family name(s)</b>
18.	EUA	Michael	Gaebel
19.	EURASHE	Michal	Karpíšek
20.	European Commission	Klara	Engels-Perenyi
21.	European Commission	Kinga	Szuly
22.	AG1 on Social Dimension Co-chair (Croatia)	Ninoslav	Šćukanec Schmidt
23.	AG2 on Learning and Teaching Co-chair (The Netherlands)	Tessa	Bijvank
24.	AG2 on Learning and Teaching Co-chair (France)	Philippe	Lalle
25.	BICG Co-chair (Austria)	Helga	Posset
26.	BICG Co-chair (Bulgaria)	Ivana	Radonova
27.	CG1 on Global Policy Dialogue Co-chair (Belgium Flemish Community)	Magalie	Soenen
28.	WG1 on Monitoring Co-chair	David	Crosier
29.	WG1 on Monitoring Co-chair	Tone Flood	Strøm
30.	BFUG Secretariat	Rocío	Iglesias de Ussel Rubio
31.	BFUG Secretariat	Clarissa	Ioimo
32.	BFUG Secretariat	Luca	Lantero
33.	BFUG Secretariat	Vera	Lucke
34.	Incoming BFUG Secretariat (Albania) present only for item 10	Linda	Pustina

Due to the extraordinary circumstances (lockdown due to COVID-19) this Board meeting was held online. All the Advisory, Coordination and Working Groups' Co-chairs were invited to join, but only one of them was supposed to present their Group's work, while the others could comment as soon as the floor was open for discussion.

## **1. Welcome and introduction**

### 1.1 Welcome by the current BFUG Co-chairs: Ukraine / Croatia

The Ukrainian BFUG Co-chair welcomed all the participants to this virtual Board meeting, which was originally planned to be held in Lviv, Ukraine, but had to be moved online mode due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that almost everybody had to work from home. She mentioned the complexity of this meeting, not only because the participants were located in three different time zones, but also because of possible technical issues. She wished everybody a positive and fruitful meeting.

The Croatian BFUG Co-chair also quickly welcomed everybody.

## 1.2 Welcome by the BFUG Vice-chair (Italy)

The Vice-chair welcomed the participants to this Board meeting.

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

As the COVID-19 crisis has an impact on almost all the agenda items, a separate agenda item to speak about the current situation was requested by some Board members. The Co-chairs explained that most of the effects would be discussed under agenda item 4 and 5 and that it would make sense to go through the agenda as foreseen and discuss the consequences step by step for each single group or activity. In consequence, the agenda was adopted without modification.

*Attachment: BFUG\_HR\_UA\_70\_2a\_Draft agenda.pdf*

*Attachment: BFUG\_HR\_UA\_70\_2b\_Draft annotated agenda.pdf*

## **3. Feedback from the last meetings**

### 3.1 Report from the BFUG Board meeting in Zagreb (7 February 2020)

The Croatian Co-chair reported on the very efficient Board meeting and mentioned that the minutes are online on the [EHEA website](#).

### 3.2 Report from the BFUG meeting in Kyiv (4-5 March 2020)

The Ukrainian Co-chair reported on the [Kyiv BFUG meeting](#) and mentioned that comments by the BFUG to the meeting's draft minutes are welcome by 10 April 2020.

## **4. Information by the BFUG Secretariat**

The Head of the BFUG Secretariat thanked the colleagues for their closeness and kindness in this difficult situation. As Italy has been in lockdown since the beginning of March, the BFUG Secretariat is working from home and adapting to the situation, e.g. by facilitating online meetings.

The date for the Ministerial Conference and Bologna Global Policy Forum – originally planned for 23-25 June 2020 – has been postponed by the Italian Minister Prof. Gaetano Manfredi to 18-20 November 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though the events will take place at the same location in Rome (*La Nuvola*) and the events' agendas will not change much, the postponement has lots of consequences for the work of all the groups and substructures, and it has implications for the Rome Communiqué. The time from April to November needs to be organised and the Italian BFUG Secretariat intends to respect the original commitments and stop its functioning at the end of June 2020 to hand over to the new BFUG Secretariat.

The Board expressed its satisfaction with the Secretariat's management of this situation and thanked Italy for the timely and necessary decision to postpone the Ministerial Conference and Bologna Global Policy Forum. The Board agreed that it was not a good idea to change

the BFUG Secretariat before the Ministerial Conference, as it would be unfair and very difficult to make the new Secretariat organise a Ministerial Conference in a different country, directly after take over. Good contacts between the current BFUG Secretariat and the incoming BFUG Secretariat have already been established to work closely together during the transition period.

It was decided that the BFUG Co-chairs will, as soon as possible, write to the Italian delegation and request to extend the Italian BFUG Secretariat. As a second step they will send a proposal for electronic consultation to the BFUG – on behalf and with the unanimous support of the Board – to keep the current Italian BFUG Secretariat for the whole autumn semester 2020 and hand over to the incoming BFUG Secretariat after the Ministerial Conference in December 2020 / January 2021.

A discussion on the duration of the incoming BFUG Secretariat's mandate was postponed to item 10, when the Albanian representative was present.

Germany proposed a small ad hoc working group to develop the future work plan for the period after the Ministerial Conference so that it can already be adopted at the Berlin BFUG meeting. This working group could be composed by all different Co-chairs of the current groups and by the current and incoming BFUG Co-chairs. Some Board members supported this proposal. The EC expressed its interest in joining this working group. The BFUG Secretariat proposed to continue as it was done in the past period (when Austria, Switzerland and the Italian BFUG Secretariat set up the work plan for 2018-2020) limiting the membership of this kind of ad hoc group to the incoming BFUG Co-chairs and the incoming BFUG Secretariat. The EC commented that the Board should be closely involved in this working group, maybe by involving one Consultative member representing all the Consultative members (as in the Drafting Committee). The CoE commented that the incoming Vice-chair should be involved in this small group which could prepare a proposal that could be discussed in the Board meeting in Edinburgh.

As Germany and the United Kingdom / United Kingdom (Scotland) will be the BFUG Co-chairs during the semester in which the Ministerial Conference takes place, the Drafting Committee could invite them to join their meetings. Several scenarios were discussed, as to whether they should become members or be invited as experts. The Board agreed that the members of the Drafting Committee would be consulted the next day and if they agree, the BFUG Co-chairs would ask the BFUG via electronic consultation to invite Germany and the United Kingdom / United Kingdom (Scotland) to the Drafting Committee.

*Attachment: BFUG\_HR\_UA\_70\_4\_Info BFUG Secretariat.pdf*

## **5. Reports from the AGs, CGs, WG1 and EHEA Network of NQF Correspondents**

The Board discussed how to proceed with the organisation of the work and the deadlines for all the Groups' final reports. The final report of the *WG1 Task force on fundamental values* had been adopted by the BFUG in Kyiv, and therefore no further action or consideration was required. The Groups' Co-chairs asked the BFUG Co-chairs to give guidance on deadlines and provide a work plan for the period from now to the Ministerial

Conference. The BFUG Co-chairs will send a roadmap with a new timeline to all the Groups' Co-chairs.

In general, the BFUG needs to develop a common point of view on how the systems can best respond to crises like the current one. The BFUG should reflect on how to maintain cooperation and openness when countries are closing down as well as the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on higher education in the EHEA. It has been agreed that this could be discussed in smaller groups during the Split BFUG meeting at the end of June 2020 so that the draft agenda would be revised accordingly.

As there are content implications for the groups, but it is still too early to know exactly what will happen, the Groups are asked to observe and consider what the new situation brings to the content of their work and to hold virtual meetings to discuss the matter with their members and make meaningful proposals.

The Thematic Peer Groups' (TPGs) Co-chairs will be invited to the next BFUG meeting in Split to report on their activities.

#### 5.1 AG1 on Social Dimension (AG1) Revised PAGs

The AG1 on Social Dimension's Co-chair (Croatia) gave an overview on what was agreed upon in the Kyiv BFUG meeting. The structure of the Principles and Guidelines (PAGs) document was agreed. It was also agreed to have ten key PAGs, each accompanied by guidelines that explain how to implement the principle. The group added a glossary with definitions of three central terms: underrepresented, disadvantaged and vulnerable students. After the Kyiv BFUG meeting a revised and final version of the document was elaborated. The revised (PAGs) will be an integral part of the Communiqué as its appendix 1.

AG1 will organise one workshop at the Global Summit on Higher Education in which the Co-chairs will present the PAGs and give instructions on how to implement them.

According to the AG1 on Social Dimension's Co-chairs, the social dimension should remain at the core of the EHEA also during the next working period and they propose a new AG on Social Dimension with the objectives of developing a system of monitoring the implementation of the PAGs and defining indicators and benchmarks for the social dimension principles. In addition, they propose to incorporate country reviews of social dimension into the Thematic Peer Groups. This proposal was welcomed by the Austrian BICG Co-chair.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_5\_1\_AG1 Report.pdf*

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_5\_1\_AG1 PAGs.pdf*

#### 5.2 AG 2 on Learning and Teaching (AG2) report and revised recommendations

The AG2 Co-chair (The Netherlands) presented two documents, one containing an update of their work with recommendations and principles and inspiring practice examples, and one short version that should be annexed to the Rome Communiqué. These documents have

been revised after the Kyiv BFUG meeting according to the BFUG's comments. During and after its online meeting on 18 March 2020, the Group has made the wording consistent, worked on the level of concreteness of the short version and increased the emphasis on future skills, digitalisation and the international dimension. The Group's Co-chairs suggest continuing the work on Learning and Teaching during the next working period by thinking of ways to monitor the progress that is made on Learning and Teaching. The Group has collected examples of inspiring practice from 11 countries and could go on collecting them from other geographical areas of the EHEA if the Board decides so. AG2 will organise another online meeting to discuss how the report can best convey the importance of Learning and Teaching and the reason why the group came up with its recommendations.

The Board commented that the short version is in line with the content of the Communiqué. As AG2 will be strongly affected by the current crisis, the Co-chairs were asked to use the time to elaborate further for example on what the added value of the EHEA cooperation is in this new situation, on distance learning or map the challenges after the summer. The inspiring practices should be more closely connected to the recommendations and should be used as concrete examples on how to implement the principles at national and institutional level.

ESU proposed to share with the AG2 Co-chairs the outcomes of several webinars on e-learning that will be held among its members, to see the different ways in which the countries are moving forward in this situation.

The BFUG Secretariat was asked to circulate to the countries that haven't yet contributed a message to send their inspiring practices, particularly the ones related to the present health emergency.

The Board agreed to discuss the changes and challenges that students are facing during the pandemic in the Split BFUG meeting and how the Bologna Process can support them. The AG1 Co-chairs will prepare a discussion paper on ESU's survey results for the Split BFUG meeting.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_5\_2\_AG2 Revised Recommendations long version.pdf*

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_5\_2\_AG2 Revised Recommendations short version.pdf*

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_5\_2\_AG2 presentation*

### 5.3 WG1 on Monitoring (WG1): Bologna Process Implementation Report

The Co-chair of WG1 (Norway) reminded the Board that the Bologna Progress Implementation Report for 2020 focuses on the main developments and trends in the EHEA and makes use of the existing data as much as possible to show the key changes over time. The BPIR is composed by qualitative data collected by the EHEA member countries through their BFUG representatives, quantitative data by EUROSTAT and narrative text on the main policy developments. The qualitative data has been checked by the BFUG members. The narrative text on Quality Assurance has been written by EQAR and ENQA, Social Dimension has been written by Eurostudent, the Internationalisation text has been written by the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA). There are also narrative texts on degree structure reforms and recognition. The draft BPIR has been sent for review to the BFUG.

Some countries are a bit delayed in sending their comments due to the difficult situation at the moment. The report will not be published until the Ministerial Conference in November, although it will be ready before. An updated draft will be ready for the BFUG meeting in Split.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_5\_3\_BPIR.pdf*

#### 5.4 EHEA Network of EQF Correspondents Report

The Council of Europe recalled that interest in the Network has increased, shown by the fact that around 35 member countries have participated in each of the two meetings that were organised since the Paris Ministerial Conference. The further development of Qualifications Frameworks is still a concern, both at the level of the EHEA and at national level. The network has focused on self-certification and with the help of EURASHE on the short-cycle qualifications. A meeting on 27 April has to be cancelled and will be postponed to a date before the Ministerial Conference, most likely in September. Concerning the future, there is a need to reflect on how self-certification can be done and on how mutual experiences can be articulated in relation to the other overarching framework, the EQF for lifelong learning. The network could work on the question how peer learning and peer support could be introduced for the review of self-certification in the EHEA. It could work further on Learning Outcomes and the triangle between QF, recognition and QA. The final report should be submitted and accepted by the BFUG.

The Board commented that the discussion on short-cycle should be continued within the network and that the network should also reflect on the outcomes of the Microbol project on micro-credentials.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_5\_4\_Network\_NQF\_Correspondents\_Report.pdf [The document was updated after the meeting adding the suggestions made on short cycle qualifications and micro-credentials]*

## **6. Rome Ministerial Communiqué and Bologna Global Policy Statement**

### 6.1 Report from the Drafting Committee on the Ministerial Communiqué

The BFUG Vice-chair, in the capacity of coordinator of the Drafting Committee, explained that 15 different, often contradictory, suggestions for change arrived and that it was impossible to incorporate all of them into the Communiqué.

Because of the emergency situation mainly the vision and preamble will be changed, and some more time is needed to understand how these parts will be modified.

The Board commented that big improvements were done to the previous versions especially on the introductory parts and welcomed the idea to include the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis at a later point in time. Digitalisation becomes more important in these weeks, but it has different aspects that still need to be analysed: while it can be a means for inclusion, it can also be a means of exclusion of the most vulnerable people, so it should be shifted from the "Inclusion" part where it is situated at the moment. Digitalisation can be linked all 3 key commitments. It was also underlined that the definition of academic freedom should be included in the first part of the Communiqué, so it would not appear as an after-thought,

divorced from the vision. Comments were also made that the draft communiqué is still a bit too long, still a bit repetitive in certain parts, and that stronger words could be used in committing the ministers.

The Board concluded that the Drafting Committee would work on a new version on the next day's meeting and the Board was asked to send written comments to the Drafting Committee either on the current version or wait for the new version of the draft Communiqué.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_6\_1\_Draft 3xxx Communiqué.pdf*

## 6.2 Report from the Drafting Committee on the Bologna Global Policy Statement

The BFUG Vice-chair explained that good progress has been made and changes have been made especially considering the pandemic and the consequences for countries, economies and cultures. One question was which SDGs to mention in the Statement and three were identified. Concrete references to the regular organization of Bologna Global Policy Fora has been taken out, as no concrete funding is given for this and therefore cannot be assured.

The Board is satisfied with the mentioned SDGs but raises again the question about commitment that cannot be assured by stakeholders. There is a need for emphasizing more the fundamental values at global level. The drafting group could look at the statement adopted by the Global Education meeting in Brussels in December 2018 to see how the reference to the importance of a culture of democracy to sustainable development has been formulated.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_6\_2\_Draft 2xxx Bologna Global Policy Statement.pdf*

## **7. Rome Ministerial Communiqué and Bologna Global Policy Statement**

### 7.1 Draft Programme for the Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference

The BFUG Secretariat presented the general elements of the programme for the Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference, which has been postponed to 18-20 November 2020 and will take place at *La Nuvola* in Rome. The agenda was not changed since the last meetings. A new official invitation letter will be sent to all the delegations.

The Board suggested to make the setting of the Ministerial Conference more diverse by having also panel discussions among Ministers: the involvement of Ministers needs more reflection and the Italian hosts should think about interactive settings. The BFUG Secretariat will reflect on the comments and come up with an amended proposal for the agenda.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_7\_1\_Draft Programme Ministerial Conference.pdf*

### 7.2 Bologna Global Policy Forum

The CG1 on Global Policy Dialogue's Co-chair (Belgium Flemish Community) gave an overview on the Bologna Global Policy Forum draft agenda. After the introduction by the Italian Minister, there will be two keynote speeches followed by the following 6 parallel sessions: Innovation, new skills and their link to employability; New (digital) ways of learning



and teaching in a lifelong learning context; Mobility of persons, minds and knowledge; Untapped talent: opening up higher education and career opportunities to refugees; Inclusion as a driver for excellence; Building trust in a global context. The Forum will be closed by reports from the parallel sessions, the adoption of the Bologna Global Policy Statement and final remarks. CG1 on GPD agreed during their last online meeting that the keynote speeches should be shortened, and that Ministers should not be moderators of the sessions. There should be a moment for the non-EHEA Ministers to speak. The AG1 and AG2 Co-chairs were asked to help in two of the sessions and accepted.

The Board commented that the topics chosen are interesting and that the format needs to be considered carefully as the central goal is to have active participation. The CG1 Co-chairs together with the BFUG Secretariat will come back with a revised proposal.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_7\_2\_Draft Programme Bologna Global Policy Forum.pdf*

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_7\_2\_CG1 Report.pdf*

### 7.3 Global Summit on HE and other events

The BFUG Secretariat explained that the Global Summit on Higher Education originally planned for June, had to be postponed to 20-21 November 2020. The idea is to maintain the proposed workshops as planned and include the topic of the societal changes of this period in the different workshops and speeches. The Secretariat has informed the workshop organizers about the postponement of the Summit and asked them about their availability to provide the workshop sessions as planned in the updated tentative programme. All the responses received so far were positive. The fundamental values of the EHEA will stay at the core of the Summit. The second day of the Global Summit is Saturday, so this needs to be taken into consideration. Different stakeholders will have responsibility for parallel and plenary sessions.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_7\_3\_Draft Programme Global Summit.pdf*

## **8. Update from the Ad Hoc Group on the application of San Marino to join the EHEA**

The Ad Hoc Group's Chair (Finland) briefly informed the Board that San Marino asked to postpone the deadline to send its revised National Report due to problems at national level concerning the COVID-19 pandemic and the ad hoc group fully agreed it was a reasonable request. San Marino will send its revised National Report after Easter and the Ad Hoc Group will prepare the recommendation to the BFUG and roadmap for the Split BFUG meeting.

## **9. Update from the Belarus Strategic Action Plan Implementation**

The BFUG Vice-chair commented that she had a quite positive impression of the updated Belarusian Strategic Action Plan as it lists the areas in which Belarus had committed to taking actions giving their explanation on what has been done. As the Belarusian representative commented in the Kyiv BFUG meeting, Belarus appreciated a lot the

involvement in all three Thematic Peer Groups as they were able to approve their QF and are preparing for self-certification. They have prepared an interesting document on Learning Outcomes and the use of ECTS. For the second key commitment – recognition – and their participation in TPG B on LRC they were able to draft recognition guidelines. With regard to the QA key commitment and the ESG they have finalised a World Bank project which should help them to do this, although the proposed timeline extends to 2025. Many developments, while slow, go in the right direction.

The ESU representative commented that he will forward a list of comments concerning transparency to the Board. Other Board members indicated that there are still challenges related to the issue of fundamental values and especially transparency. The Board should thank Belarus for the report and send further questions to be clarified before the Ministerial Conference. The Vice-chair will prepare a written report for the Board and clarify the issues with Belarus.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_9\_Belarusian Strategic Action Plan.pdf*

## **10. Information from the future BFUG Secretariat 2020-2023**

The Albanian BFUG representative, in the capacity of incoming BFUG Secretariat, was invited to intervene under this item and to present Albania's plans for the BFUG Secretariat 2020-2023 and Ministerial Conference in 2023. The issue concerning the extension of the Italian BFUG Secretariat to the end of 2020 was discussed and the Albanian representative agreed that a proposal from the Co-chairs on behalf of the Board should be sent to get written approval for this. The incoming Albanian BFUG Secretariat presented its plans for the period after the Rome Ministerial Conference.

The Board thanked Albania for the offer to host the next Ministerial Conference and BFUG Secretariat. There should be a formal decision of the BFUG to recommend this invitation to Ministers and this should be done via electronic consultation as soon as possible. Some more information on the Conference and Secretariat was requested in a written document, such as the tables shown on the presentation, capacity numbers for the Ministerial Conference and the functioning of the Secretariat. This information should be sent to the BFUG together with the invitation letter when asking for the electronic endorsement.

Another point for discussion was the period from the Rome Ministerial Conference in November 2020 to the Ministerial Conference in Albania. As 2,5 years would be short for the new work plan, the Albanian delegation was asked whether the Albanian Ministerial Conference could either take place in November 2023 or a prolongation from 3 to 3,5 years of the Secretariat's work period would be possible and consequently the Ministerial Conference would be organised in May/June 2024. In the latter case, the BFUG could get back to the normal sequence of events. The Albanian representative announced that a prolongation of the Albanian Secretariat from 3 to 3,5 years should be possible but needed to ask the Minister for confirmation. She will come back to the BFUG Chairs with a confirmation of the two scenarios. She added that the electronic endorsement from the BFUG is needed to activate all the internal procedures in Albania and the transition period with the Italian BFUG Secretariat.

The Board concluded that after receiving Albania's answer and the explanatory document, the BFUG Co-chairs, with the unanimous support of the Board, will send a proposal for the formal decision on the two scenarios to the BFUG via electronic consultation.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_10\_Future Secretariat presentation.pdf*

## **11. Draft agenda for the next BFUG Meeting in Split, Croatia (25-26 June 2020)**

The Croatian BFUG Co-chairs still hope to hold this meeting physically in Split and have pre-booked the meeting rooms and hotel.

All the groups will present their updated reports except AG1 on Social Dimension which will present its Final Report.

As the BFUG has the role to promote good practice with regard to the response to coronavirus pandemic, it was suggested to add parallel discussion sessions for example on the following topics: 1. Evidence based discussion on students' experiences caused by the corona crisis and online learning; 2. Assessment, as HEIs lack good practice and information; 3. Difficulties that might occur with the recognition of qualifications obtained in this period; 4. Teachers' experience, provided possibly by ETUCE; 5. International students, e.g. difficulties to get home and other challenges.

Each parallel session should be introduced by a short thematic presentation/paper that should deal with what the experience was, what others can learn from this experience, what are the innovations that HEIs could take up in normal circumstances and what are the lessons learned for future emergencies.

ESU is carrying out an online survey related to the challenges faced by students and would like to present the results in the students' parallel session. EUA can contribute with the survey results on digitally enhanced learning, AG2 Co-chair (the Netherlands) can contribute with survey results from a questionnaire collecting good practices and challenges carried out by SURF (organisation for digitalisation of education in the Netherlands). Eurostudent can probably provide its data as well.

Concerning the timetable, the BFUG Chairs and BFUG Secretariat should reflect on whether 1,5 days is enough to discuss all the agenda items and hold the parallel sessions.

In case the next BFUG meeting cannot take place in presence, an online meeting should be organised and the agenda would be revised and shortened.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_11\_BFUG LXXI Draft Annotated Agenda.pdf*

## **12. Information by the incoming Co-chairs**

### 12.1 BFUG Board Meeting in Edinburgh, United Kingdom (4 September 2020)

The incoming Co-chair (United Kingdom (Scotland)) presented some general information about Scotland. As it might be the first time that all the Board meets again after the crisis, the hosts would like to organise it as a celebration and will organise a social programme in

a pub with the possibility to dance. In Edinburgh everything will be in walking distance and further practical information will follow.

*Attachment: Board\_HR\_UA\_70\_12\_1\_Incoming\_Cochair\_Board\_Edinburgh\_presentation*

### 12.2 BFUG meeting in Berlin, Germany (24-25 September 2020)

The BFUG meeting in Berlin will take place at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research close to the *Bundeskanzleramt* and the Spree. Everything is in walking distance. On 23 September the welcome reception will be organised at the Natural History Museum under the dinosaurs. On 24 September the dinner will be close to the Ministry and the final lunch will be at the *Futurium*, a new exhibition hall. In the afternoon of the final day, there is the possibility to take a guided tour of the Bundestag and visit the dome with a view over Berlin. The content will be decided after the Split BFUG meeting.

## **13. BFUG Membership**

EURODOC has sent a letter with additional information on why they want to become BFUG Consultative members on 30 March 2020 to the BFUG Secretariat. They had sent their first request in June 2018 and since then their application was discussed at the Board meeting in Zurich and the BFUG meeting in Vienna. At the [Board meeting in Skopje in February 2019](#) ESU informed the Board members about a meeting with EURODOC, where the issue of possible double representation was discussed and in case consultative membership for EURODOC was accorded, ESU would represent and discuss issues considering students between level 4 to 8 of the EQF, while EURODOC would represent PhD students from the professional side, as well as young researchers and PhD candidates who teach.

The Board members commented that EURODOC can be invited to BFUG meetings as experts on specific topics, and that they are already represented either by ETUCE or ESU. The Board should reflect about what the requirements for Consultative members are, such as for example that they feel the responsibility for all aspects of the EHEA. The BFUG needs to be selective as the core of the EHEA are the members and the Consultative members should not become too many. The partner status exists for organisations that have a narrow focus on a specific topic. One competitive advantage of EURODOC could be the opportunity to bridge the gap between EHEA and ERA for example during the fundamental values discussion. They could advise the BFUG about enhancing the quality of doctoral studies and the QF level 8. The BFUG Co-chairs should answer EURODOC's letter.

As the admission of Consultative members is a decision made by the Ministers and the Board is not a decision-making body, the Board concluded that EURODOC is a valuable partner of the EHEA, but the clear recommendation from the Board to the BFUG would be to not admit EURODOC as Consultative member. The BFUG Co-chairs will send this recommendation to the BFUG via electronic consultation.

## **13. AOB**

No other business was raised and the BFUG Board meeting was closed with thanks to the BFUG Co-chairs, the Vice-chair and the BFUG Secretariat for the well organised meeting in this difficult situation.