



## Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

Second Meeting, Online\*  
Thursday, January 13, 2022,  
10.00-13.00 (Brussels time)

### Minutes

#### List of Participants

No.	Country	Name	Surname
1	Albania (Co-Chair)	Linda	Pustina
2	Austria	Michael	Roither
3	Belgium Flemish Community (Co-Chair)	Magalie	Soenen
4	EI - ETUCE	Hanna	Tanskanen
5	ESU - European Students' Union	Martin	Hammerbauer
6	EUA - European University Association	Elizabeth	Colucci
7	European Commission (Co-Chair)	Fiorella	Perotto
8	France	Mathieu	Musquin
9	Germany	Tim	Maschuw
10	Holy See	Melanie	Rosenbaum
11	Ireland	Orla	Lynch
12	Italy (Co-Chair)	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
13	Malta	Valerie	Attard
14	The Netherlands	Jenneke	Lokhoff
15	Romania	Madalina	Matei
16	UNESCO	Vanja	Gutovic
17	United Kingdom	Ella	Ritchie
18	BFUG Secretariat (Head)	Oltion	Rrumbullaku
19	BFUG Secretariat	Enis	Fita
20	BFUG Secretariat	Patrik	Bardhi

ENQA, Kazakhstan and Spain did not attend the meeting.

**\*Note:** Due to the extraordinary circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting was held online.

#### **1. Welcome by the Co-Chairs of CG on Global Policy Dialogue**

The Co-chairs welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the 2021-2024 working period, wishing for a year of full international cooperation through knowledge exchange and coordination, as well as an improvement in the pandemic situation.

##### 1.1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted without changes.

For more detailed information, please see [CG GPD FR AZ Draft Agenda](#)

## 1.2. Introduction to the meeting and its objectives

Magalie Soenen (Co-Chair) gave a quick overview of the work done so far, including the submission of the project application for the Erasmus+ call and reporting to the BFUG Board and BFUG meetings, respectively. Ms. Soenen proceeded to introduce the main objectives of the meeting, to commence work based on the substance of the Work Plan, having an exchange of ideas and dividing the work.

## **2. Update by the Co-Chairs**

### 2.1. Presentation to the December 2021 BFUG

Fiorella Perotto (Co-Chair) presented an overview of the work done thus far at the BFUG Meeting 78 on December 2021, highlighting the overarching goal of fostering communication and building trust between the EHEA and other countries/macro-regions through knowledge exchange and cooperation. Ms. Perotto emphasized the importance of including EHEA in global policy discussions by organizing the next Global Policy Forum (GPF) and the 2024 Communiqué; forming regional subgroups; and systematically mapping global and regional events (i.e., European Union - African Union summit, February 2022). Further, the IN-GLOBAL project proposal under the initiative to support the implementation of reforms in the EHEA was subsequently followed up and submitted. It was concluded that the initiatives and activities of the CG on GPD should emphasize inclusion and pragmatic learning about different regional models, in order to determine how they might be connected within the Bologna Process.

### 2.2. IN-GLOBAL: Proposal to the Erasmus call for Bologna support

Ann Katherine Isaacs (Co-Chair) gave a summary of the IN-GLOBAL project that was submitted to the Erasmus call by Italy and Romania, with associated partner Albania. As the call constraints indicated that Albania was unable to participate as full partner, the project proposal was presented jointly by a consortium consisting of CIMEA of Italy, the Polytechnic University of Bucharest and the Romanian Ministry of Education, in support of the TF on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA Community and the CG on the Global Policy Dialogue (GPD).

In support of the CG, Work Package (WP) 2 was highlighted. The WP 2 tasks were presented, including supporting the CG's meetings and organizing "Bologna events" for global stakeholders at an international level, which would be critical if the meetings and events were held in person. Other tasks included an analysis of non-EHEA countries' perceptions of the EHEA, as well as an analysis of existing and potential EHEA country actions taken at a global level, such as mapping actions/agencies working on the promotion of higher education in EHEA countries and mapping mobility flows. It was determined that the main support that the CG might expect from this WP would be in the form of meeting support, with other tasks assigned to be completed by the Consortium. WP 3 was presented as a joint package to support the TF and CG, with possible synergies and overlaps between the two groups, and events applicable to both groups for activities in nearby countries and macro regions. The tasks of the WPs included meeting support from a variety of committees and boards that are not foreseen in the CG's activities, but in line with the ToRs, it is stipulated that external experts who are not members of the CG may be involved.

A few remarks were made that the CG was not part of the content generation for this project, and it should be examined how this collaboration with the project Consortium will be implemented, if the project is approved. It was also advised that the CG roadmap includes interlinkages between the project and group's activities. The link between the CG and the project proposal needs further attention concerning organizational and coordination issues.

Nonetheless, a few members stated that this initiative provides the opportunity to pursue specific interests of the CG, as the tasks are not allocated to specific members/organizations.

It was decided that the CG continues to finalize the Work Plan and roadmap, and if the project is approved, it will be incorporated into the CG's work accordingly.

### **3. Draft Work Plan: discussions, suggestions and timeline**

The draft Work Plan was presented, which contained working methods and themes, as well as an intersection with the IN-GLOBAL project, with the CG's work being oriented by the previous working period's work, the CG on GPD final report (2020), and the ToRs (2021-2024). It was noted that the composition of the CG was expanded, and with the need for flexible and frequent communication in order to carry out the tasks, it was proposed to form subgroups where there will be one 'chair/coordinator' to convene meetings and regularly report back to the CG and inform of their plans and results, as this methodology had resulted a success in the previous period.

The number of subgroups is not fixed, with new groups being added if needed during the timeframe of the work period. The subgroups are proposed to be organized based on geographical criteria (focus on a single macro-region) or by theme.

For more information, please see: [Draft Work Plan](#)

### **4. Formation of subgroups: thematic and/or geographic**

In consideration of the draft Work Plan, the Co-chairs proposed in the first instance the formation of 6 subgroups<sup>1</sup>.

#### 4.1. The thematic/geographic subgroups

Linda Pustina (Co-Chair) underlined that one subgroup was proposed in the draft workplan for organizing the GPF and preparing the Statement. It was advised that these two themes be kept separate as they will be addressed comprehensively over a one-year period. Thus, it was suggested that two chairs be assigned to these themes, with Ms. Pustina overseeing the GPF and another CG member coordinating the drafting of the Forum's Statement.

Further, Ms. Pustina informed on the 'Events and liaison with the TF on EK' subgroup that the TF on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing is discussing how to coordinate activities with other EHEA initiatives (i.e., Berlin Process with Western Balkans (2021-2024)), whose objectives overlap with the Bologna Process objectives. Coordination of activities to promote the Bologna Process within these countries is recommended in the TF's plan. However, as Kosovo (a country part of the Berlin Process initiative) is not a member of the EHEA, it was advised that this initiative be completed in accordance with the CG by potentially incorporating it in the CG workplan.

It was proposed to combine subgroups three and six respectively, to form a single subgroup for all of Asia, including Central Asia and Asia "Pacific". On a similar note, it was discussed to form a subgroup Africa for all of Africa. For the GPF<sup>2</sup> in Rome 2020, a number of thematic areas were put forward. In case we work further in the future on these thematic areas, it was suggested that virtual and blended mobility is included in Topic 3: Mobility of persons, minds and knowledge.

It was suggested that a thematic coordination subgroup would be formed to keep the CG's communication and discourse in sync. This subgroup should ideally outline thematic areas to

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1 1. Events and liaison with the TF on EK; 2. Long-term preparation for the Tirana Global Policy Forum; 3. Thematic/geographic subgroup (South-East) Asia; 4. Thematic/geographic subgroup Africa: Sahara, North Africa, Francophone Africa (separate regional subgroups or all-inclusive subgroup); 5. The Americas; 6. Central Asia

<sup>2</sup> Thematic areas for the GPF: 1. Innovation, new skills and their link to employability; 2. New (digital) ways of learning and teaching in a lifelong learning context; 3. Mobility of persons, minds and knowledge; 4. Untapped talent: opening up higher education and career opportunities to refugees; 5. Inclusion as a driver for excellence; 6. Building trust in a global context.

the various subgroups to ensure consistency in what members present externally across regions, as well that the CG is actively bringing in information and making changes as needed. To this, it was conveyed that the themes/topics taken up in the subgroups have not been definitively assigned yet, thus the subgroup topics can be adjusted/modified by the subgroups internally, rather than forming a separate subgroup to follow up on this activity. A comment was made that cooperation among the subgroups is critical for the GPF's organization, as well as for building rapport between the regional perspectives and theme perspectives of the subgroups, in order to coordinate the many ways in which the subgroups would organize their work.

A remark was made that there should not be overlap and dispersion among the work of the subgroups. For instance, the macro-regional subgroups should monitor events/activities and share them, rather than assign this function to subgroup one (Events and liaison with the TF on EK). Moreover, the work of the first subgroup was also identified to be overlapping with the work of the Co-Chairs, namely the coordination and liaison with the TF, and, if approved, with the IN-GLOBAL project.

In consideration of the above, the formation of the following subgroups was proposed:

- Organizing the Global Policy Forum: This subgroup will present ideas and plans for the Tirana GPF.
- Drafting the Global Policy Statement: A separate subgroup was proposed for drafting the statement.
- Asia: It was decided to form a single subgroup for all of Asia, including Central Asia, and Asia "Pacific". This subgroup will comprise of the ASEAN region and coordinate with the ASEM process. If proven useful in practice, some activities will focus on particular parts of this large area.
- Africa: It was decided to form a subgroup for all of Africa. There was further discussion as to whether this subgroup would also consider the Near East, and in the end this recommendation was accepted.
- The Americas: The scope of this subgroup will comprise of South, Central and North America, as well as the Caribbean.

The new formation of the subgroups was mentioned to be subject to change in accordance to the division and progress of the work during the later work stages of the subgroups. In addition, it was decided for the subgroups to meet as soon as possible to gather ideas and begin drafting their workplans and sharing ideas in general.

#### 4.2. Division of contribution in different subgroups

The CG members volunteered to participate in different subgroups. This process was decided to be continued over electronic consultation after the meeting, allowing participants to return to their institutions/organizations to collect the necessary orientations.

### **5. Draft Roadmap: Decisions on next tasks, next meetings, deadlines**

Magalie Soenen (Co-Chair) presented an overview of the draft Roadmap, in line with the ToR that were approved at the BFUG meeting in Portugal (April 15-16, 2021), and in line with the activities presented at the last BFUG Board and BFUG meetings, respectively. The activities/tasks of the subgroups were reflected in the roadmap accordingly. It was expected for each subgroup to hold at least one on-line meeting, to examine and refine their area of endeavor, draft their work-plans and report to the CG Co-chairs by end of March 2022, about the status of their work and activities. In the upcoming BFUG Meeting, to be held in April

2022, the CG indicated that it would report on the progress thus far, including an update on the output gathered from the subgroups.

A more detailed plan for the 2023 activities would be provided at a later stage. In January 2023, subgroup 1 will start with presenting ideas/proposals and subgroup 2 will begin the work on the statement. Furthermore, it was suggested that the initial draft of the Statement to be presented to the BFUG Board and the BFUG by September 2023, and the near-final draft to be presented to the BFUG Board and the BFUG by January 2024.

It was agreed that the Co-Chairs would confirm by e-mail the member representation in the subgroups, as well as prepare and share a ToR document as guidance for the subgroups. The updated documents of the Work Plan and Roadmap would be distributed to the members, with all comments incorporated accordingly. Finally, the Co-Chairs would send out a doodle to decide on the date of the next CG meeting (May-June, 2022).

## **6. AOB & Conclusion of the meeting**

Mathieu Musquin presented information on the 'Conference on International Cooperation for a Global Europe in the Field of Research, Higher Education and Innovation' to be held in Marseille, on March 8-9, 2022. The Conference aims to reinforce the international facet of the European higher education, in addressing major global challenges, as well as establishing new guidelines for international partnerships, proposed by the European Commission.

For more information, please see: [Ministerial Conference on a Comprehensive Approach to Research, Innovation and Higher Education](#)

It was agreed to liaise with BFUG Secretariat in regards to the restricted area section on the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue webpage of the EHEA website, to give CG members access to the materials and documents included therein. As a follow-up assignment, the management of the restricted area was included in the draft roadmap.

No other business was raised and the CG on GPD meeting was concluded with thanks to the Co-Chairs for the well-organized meeting and work on the draft Work Plan and roadmap.