

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

1. 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 WG will present the final report to the BFUG on the state of implementation of the roadmap by the beginning of 2024.

2. Timetable and work plan

The working group has outlined an indicative working plan for its work. The work 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.

San Marino has adjusted the initial work plan in the field of governance. It was initially set to approve a Law of the University of San Marino regulating the major issues related to governance. Along the process, the authorities of San Marino considered that it would be better to first approve a Law on higher education and at a later stage approve the Law of the University of San Marino.

Qualifications framework

San Marino is developing a National Qualifications Framework compatible with the QF-EHEA, incorporating a learning outcomes approach, and it will proceed to self-certify the NQF against the Overarching Framework of Qualification of the EHEA (QF-EHEA) and against the EQF-LLL with the participation of two foreign experts.

Time	Roadmap	San Marino's implementation plan
By 1 June 2021	Establish a timetable for this work and identify a national steering group and launch work on the NQF by 1 June 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flexible learning paths - specify the place of certain qualifications 	Working group on QF by the Ministry has been established <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - involvement of all stakeholders - A national point of coordination for the independent evaluation of the self-certification of the NQF against the EHEA-QF has been established under Ministry of Education and the involvement of San Marino Job Centre - Co-operation with Italy
November 2021		First draft of the law
By 1 June 2022		Parliament's first discussion of the law
By 1 November 2023	Complete the NQF, including self-certification	Participation of foreign experts in the development of the NQF and establishment of the self-certification

Quality assurance

San Marino will develop a plan for quality assuring higher education in San Marino in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

Time	Roadmap	San Marino's implementation plan
By 1 June 2021	Develop a timetable for establishing quality assurance arrangements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clarify the roles and functions of the IAB - engage in the activities and professional networks of ENQA 	Independent Assessment Body (IAB) at the University of San Marino has recently been established to develop the guidelines of an initial and very streamlined internal QA System.
By 1 June 22		Definition of guidelines for internal quality assurance
By 1 November 2023	Conclude an agreement with a foreign quality assurance agency Legislation establishing the basis for conducting QA in conformity with the ESG.	The Law on higher education establishes a system of internal and external quality assurance. Conclude an agreement with a foreign quality assurance agency.

Recognition of qualifications

San Marino will give due consideration to the introduction of the recognition of prior learning, including informal and non-formal learning, as part of the implementation of the ECTS User's Guide.

Time	Roadmap	San Marino's implementation plan
By 1 June 2021	Establish a timetable for the introduction of the recognition of prior learning.	First draft of the document for the recognition of qualifications based on the evaluation report related to the modifications which are needed
By 1 September 2022		Implementation of measures in the University guidelines
By 1 November 2023	Implement measures to the extent they do not require modifying legislation and introduce any required legislation for submission to Parliament	

Higher education governance

San Marino will implement the principles of the EHEA, as expressed in successive declarations and communiqués adopted by the Ministers, concerning student and staff participation, with voting rights, in higher education governance.

Time	Roadmap	San Marino's implementation plan
By 1 June 2021	Establish a timetable and develop an overview of measures required to modify current arrangement	
By 1 June 2022		First draft of the new University law
By 1 November 2022		The Bill of Law of the University has been presented to the majority coalition. First draft of the new Law on higher education
By 1 January 2023		Start of the legislative process of the Law on higher education

By 1 November 2023	Submission of the required legislative measures to Parliament	Adoption of the law on higher education
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Lifelong learning/ social dimension of higher education

Time	Roadmap	San Marino's implementation plan
By 1 June 2021	develop a plan and timetable for stimulating the participation of underrepresented groups in higher education	
January 2022		A working group will start an assessment of specific needs and possible amendments
By 1 November 2023	Take measures to stimulate participation of underrepresented groups. If these require legislative amendments submit them to Parliament.	New University law

3. Overview of the main developments and findings

The main developments and findings so far are as follows:

- There is a good cooperation with the representatives of San Marino and the exchange of information flows in both directions as expected.
- San Marino has drafted the NQF and it has gone through the second consultation with all the relevant stakeholders. Two foreign experts have been identified and they will do the last review before presenting the NQF to the Parliament.
- The Bill of Law on higher education has been drafted and it will start the parliamentary process in December 2022. This legal text establishes the framework for the further Law of the University of San Marino.
- The Bill of Law of the University has been presented to the majority coalition in September 2022. It will be published just after the approval of the Law on higher education. The new law expands the autonomy of the governance of the university and it establishes more transparency in publishing university acts.
- A process of internal and external quality assurance is also included in the Bill of Law of the University.
- San Marino recognizes academically foreign qualifications according to the Lisbon Recognition Convention and other bilateral agreements. Informal and non-formal education can also be internally recognized in the university of San Marino.
- San Marino launched the Territorial Pact. The Territorial Pact is an advisory group of stakeholders (university staff, students, professional associations, trade unions, banks, companies and local administrations) who provides opinions on the strategic and development plan of the University. This Pact improves the interaction with the territory and between qualified teachers and motivated students.

As a consequence, the working group considers that San Marino is giving evidence of implementing of the actions outlined in the Roadmap and it is progressing adequately.

4. Meeting plan for the WG

So far, the working group has met four times. Twice a year since the beginning of the BFUG period 2021-2024 (May and November 2021 and March and September 2022). Next meeting is scheduled by February-March 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, 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
September 2022, San Marino	Update on the implementation in San Marino, peer learning and support activities, analysis of progress in the implementation of the Roadmap
February-March 2023	Update on the implementation in San Marino, analysis of progress in the implementation of the Roadmap, structure and of the final report of the WG for discussion
September-October 2023	Follow-up on the implementation, draft of the final report of the WG for discussion.
December 2023 -January 2024	Finalization of conclusions and final report of the WG for the BFUG approval