



Ad Hoc Task Force to Increase Synergies between the European Higher Education Area, the Higher Education Dimension of the European Education Area and the European Research Area

Name of the Working Group

Ad Hoc Task Force to Increase Synergies Between the European Higher Education Area, the Higher Education Dimension of the European Education Area and the European Research Area (for the period May – December 2021)

Contact persons (proposed Co-Chairs)

Slovenia, European Commission

Composition

Austria; Belgium Flemish Community; Belgium French Community; Denmark; Estonia; European Commission; Finland; France; Greece; Luxembourg; Malta; North Macedonia; Norway; Portugal; Romania; Slovenia; Spain; Switzerland; United Kingdom; Council of Europe; EI – ETUCE; EUA - European University Association and EURASHE.

The Ad Hoc Task Force may invite, as appropriate, relevant experts to provide input for works to be carried out.

Purpose and/or outcome

A proposal to be presented to the BFUG allowing for concrete synergies between the European Higher Education Area (Bologna context), the higher education dimension of the European Education Area (EU context) and the European Research Area (EU context), building on the respective cooperation structures.

Reference to Rome Communiqué

'We commit to strengthening cooperation with the European Research Area. We call for the BFUG to work closely with the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC) to enhance synergies and alignment between education and research and innovation policies. Focus will be inter alia on developing research-based learning, guaranteeing academic and scientific freedom, and contributing to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.'



Specific tasks

Building on the Rome Communiqué, **develop an overall proposal allowing for a streamlined and strengthened cooperation between the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), the higher education dimension of the European Education Area (EEA) and the European Research Area (ERA)**. This proposal should describe how the cooperation can be done in a fit-for-purpose and flexible manner, for example in the form of joint meetings or working groups.

Elaborate a specific proposal for a way forward on how to concretely work on a strengthened cooperation on the specific topics identified by the Ministers in the Rome Communiqué, i.e. research-based learning, guaranteeing academic and scientific freedom, and contributing to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Reporting

Minutes of Task Force meetings will be made available to the BFUG by the Bologna Secretariat. The BFUG should receive a proposal for synergies and cooperation in time before its meeting planned for December 2021.

Meeting schedule:

About three online meetings, according to a schedule to be decided by the Ad hoc Task Force for its mandate to be carried out.

Liaison with other EHEA WGs' activities

1. Working Group on Fundamental Values
2. Working Group on Learning and Teaching
3. Working Group on Social Dimension

Additional remarks

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