

Task Force on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA community

Draft Action plan

Introduction

The Task Force on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA Community was created to counter the widespread concern that the ‘stakeholders’ (higher education students and staff, employers and society at large) are often not aware (or correctly informed) about what the Bologna Process and the EHEA are today, what areas they address and what impact they have on higher education systems in the member countries. The impression in many countries is that the BFUG and the EHEA is or has become a ‘bubble’ which does not spread knowledge of the important work it does, and is not interested in gathering (or able to gather) input from the rich and varied experience of actual practitioners in the higher education world.

The need to address this issue is clearly recognized in the Rome communiqué, which states: *“We commit to **building a more closely connected and sustainable higher education community**, which fosters inclusion, communication, cooperation, and solidarity, essential for the **relevance and excellence of the future EHEA**. To accomplish this, we commit to keeping our national higher education sectors informed about and involved in EHEA developments, and to working closely with student and higher education associations and networks on the development and implementation of national reforms. We recognize the importance of the broad consultations carried out to identify priorities for the future of the EHEA and ask the BFUG to organize EHEA events such as **transnational seminars, workshops and hearings** involving the wider higher education community (students, academic staff and external stakeholders), to discuss present and future goals and explore collaborative ways to address them.”*

In this passage the Communiqué also indicates specific paths along which to develop a closer and more positive relationship with the stakeholders.

In order to take up this commitment, the BFUG decided, in its meeting from 13 - 14 April 2021, to create a “Task Force”. This was understood to be an agile and active working group that would address the needs identified. Thirteen countries and organizations joined the group (Albania; Belgium Flemish Community; Germany; Italy; Malta, The Netherlands, Romania;



United Kingdom; EQAR; ESU; EUA; EURASHE; European Commission) and it is co-chaired by Albania, Italy and Romania.

The name (“Enhancing Knowledge Sharing”) of the Task Force itself emphasizes the dialogic nature of its proposed activities: these are not to focus on top down ‘communication’ about the Process, but rather on an organized attempt to ensure better knowledge flow in all directions, so that the stakeholders and the Bologna structures (BFUG and working groups of all denominations) can share accurate knowledge, and build it together.

The Project (IN-GLOBAL)

In response to the Erasmus call for support for Bologna activities, a project was submitted by Italy and Romania: specifically by CIMEA as coordinator and the Romanian Ministry of National Education and University ”POLITEHNICA” of Bucharest as partners. It is impossible to know at present whether the project will be approved: if so, there will be some funds available for certain activities: if not, the Task Force is committed to carrying out its mandate, but not all activities proposed below might be possible.

Specific tasks, proposed activities and timeline

The Rome Communiqué lists a number of actions or activities which should be implemented in order to reach the objectives of the Task Force. The Communiqué first mentions the need to ‘inform’ and ‘involve’ the higher education sector in developments; it also refers to working ‘closely’ with higher education and student organizations. The reference to ‘involvement’ in development as well as implementation points clearly to building a new relationship with the higher education community.

The Communiqué also refers to the ‘importance’ of the ‘broad consultation’ which was carried out in the first semester of 2019, which suggests that the TF might review the very interesting material gathered at that time on ‘priorities’ and perceptions of the Bologna Process and the EHEA.

The Communiqué also indicates ‘events’ (exemplified by, but not limited to, ‘transnational seminars, workshops and hearings’) with the stakeholders, and mentions that these activities should aim at better ways to address future goals in a collaborative manner.

In consideration of the above and while waiting to know whether the resources of the IN-GLOBAL project will be available for the Task Force, the following activities are proposed for discussion.



The Task Force can, of course, also plan and carry out other activities or actions as its work develops. Coordination with the work of other working structures is also a priority, especially with the Global Policy CG.

- 1) Map national approaches and practices of collaboration and sharing knowledge related to the development and implementation of Bologna policy goals, to identify successful actions (such as Bologna experts, seminars, collaboration with different actors and stakeholders groups).

Activity	Methodology	Timeline
Reviewing the material resulting from the BFUG 2019 survey on <u>“The Future of the EHEA”</u>	The raw material deriving from the consultation, as well as the statistical elaborations made at the time, country by country, can be consulted and compared with the material produced in the new survey, where relevant. The respective data were gathered in one report, but not analyzed in depth. The TF members will perform the analysis.	June 2022
Developing and applying a survey for member countries, to gather: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ examples of good practice and successful actions at national, regional and international level in what it concerns collaboration and sharing knowledge 	The survey will be developed by the TF members and filled in by the BFUG members.	Survey format – April 2022 Answers from countries: June 2022



Activity	Methodology	Timeline
related to Bologna reforms; ✓ difficulties related to the understanding and embedding of reforms in the daily practices of institutions; ✓ specific needs of support.		
Inventory of specific studies / reports / articles / books about how the Bologna Process is perceived and understood	TF members and <u>HE expert</u> ¹ .	June 2022
Inventory of results and deliverables, with focus on dissemination activities, of projects funded within the dedicated Bologna Process calls of the ERASMUS+ project	TF members - information already available on the dedicated section of the Erasmus+ program.	June 2022
Report based on the outcomes of survey and on the inventories presented above	TF members with the support of <u>data analysis expert</u> ² and <u>HE expert</u> .	November 2022

2) Explore how ‘Bologna’ and the EHEA are perceived by the various stakeholders in the national contexts.

Activity	Methodology	Timeline
Development and application of an on-	The survey will be	Survey

¹ Subject to project proposal approval for financing.
² Subject to project proposal approval for financing.



Activity	Methodology	Timeline
line survey aimed at stakeholders such as students, academic staff, researchers, HEI management, employers, civil society, mass-media etc.	developed by the TF members and disseminated through the BFUG members and consultative members.	format– April 2022 Answers from stakeholders: July 2022
Focus groups discussions with relevant stakeholders’ associations	TF members with the support of <u>HE expert</u> .	July 2022
Report on perception of stakeholders	TF members with the support of <u>data analysis expert</u> and <u>HE expert</u> .	November 2022

3) Propose to the BFUG ways to make the Bologna Process and its reform goals better understood and more transparent at national, institutional and individual level; as well as innovative ways of knowledge sharing, attractive and accessible for all, encouraging the sector to contribute proactively to the process;

Activity	Methodology	Timeline
Based on the reports realized at tasks 1) and 2), recommendations for BFUG members will be developed, including practical and hands-on guidance, destined to encourage active involvement of the academic community and taking into consideration the specific needs of countries	TF members with the support of <u>communication</u> ³ and <u>HE expert</u> .	July 2023

4) Identify measures to enhance collaboration between individual countries and groups of countries that enable them to learn from and support each other in sharing knowledge more effectively within the EHEA community;

³ Subject to project proposal approval for financing.

Activity	Methodology	Timeline
Based on the reports realized at tasks 1) and 2), recommendations for BFUG members will be developed, considering specific aspects related to regional cooperation.	TF members with the support of communication ⁴ and HE expert	July 2023

5) Organize events or initiatives aiming at spreading information and creating dialogue about the Bologna process and/or support members in organizing such events at national or transnational level.

Activity	Methodology	Timeline
Translation of Rome Communiqué in all EHEA languages (?)	<u>Project consortium.</u>	December 2022
Development of dissemination tools as videos, messages, logos, to be broadcasted at national / regional level and used for awareness raising campaigns	TF members with the support of Project consortium and <u>communication expert.</u>	November 2023
Series of TV/radio reportages on topics related to the Bologna process	TF members will develop the concept, with the support of the <u>communication expert.</u> The BFUG members will support the realization of such reportages in their own countries.	2022 - 2024
Development of guidelines to organize events, including ideas of topics and formats	TF members with the support of Project consortium and HE expert.	October 2023
Developing the concept and organizing sessions within the	TF members.	2022 - 2024

⁴ Subject to project proposal approval for financing.

Activity	Methodology	Timeline
BFUG meetings, related to the dialogue about the Bologna process		
Developing a section within the EHEA website destined to specific information for students, teachers, researchers or the general public, including a live chat function	BFUG Secretariat, TF members with the support of Project consortium and communication expert.	July 2023
Collaborate with other organizations at national/regional level and/or organize common initiatives to promote Bologna process and implementation of the key commitments at national/regional level	TF members with the support of <u>Project consortium</u> and <u>communication expert</u> .	2022-2024
The “Bologna professor” competition	TF members with ESU support Students from EHEA countries will propose teachers that make a difference for their professional and personal development, based on specific common criteria. Committees of students representing national students’ federations will select a number of applications that will then be analyzed by a Committee organized at BFUG level. The selection process could include a presentation by the selected professors, during an EHEA event.	2023