



DRAFT FINAL REPORT

WG3 "Policy Development for New EHEA Goals"

as of October 2017

Terms of Reference – Outcome/tasks fulfilled by October 2017

By October 2017 five planned meetings of WG3 have been held according to the agreed schedule:

- 9 February 2016 – Moscow (Russia),
- 13-14 June 2016 – Paris (France),
- 2-3 November 2016 – Stockholm (Sweden),
- 6-7 April 2017 – Brussels (Belgium),
- 5 September 2017 – Brussels (Belgium).

In addition, between WG meetings four face-to-face meetings of WG3 chairs have been held in Brussels.

WG3 has finally specified six topics in agreement with the BFUG, by taking into account the Yerevan communiqué and "The Bologna Process revisited":

- **Promoting active and responsible citizens,**
- **Linking EHEA and ERA,**
- **Using digital technologies,**
- **Supporting students from non-traditional backgrounds,**
- **Enhancing teacher support**
- **Improving professional recognition.**

To explore potential new priorities for the future of the EHEA beyond 2020, WG3 during the reporting period co-ordinated a series of actions and events organised nearly in all countries of the WG. WG members guided and assisted in organising those actions. WG3 made a lot to ensure and foster the involvement of national, European and international stakeholders, e.g. the European Commission, European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), European Region of Education International (EI), European Students' Union (ESU), German Association for Educational Development, Centre for Research and Interdisciplinary, Paris Descartes University, LADOK consortium - national system for study administration within Higher Education in Sweden, National Erasmus+ Offices, etc. in the organisation of the events and active participation. WG3 members worked to ensure the dissemination of upcoming activities and their emerging results using official ministerial web-portals, mailing lists, professional and public media. The working group regularly reported back to the BFUG on results of actions taken and on reflections. As a result of discussions and activities undertaken by the WG, the policy recommendation paper and suggestions for the 2018 Ministerial Conference and Paris Communiqué has been drafted.

The resulting version of the final draft recommendations has been sent to WG3 members in the last days of September. WG3 members were invited to comment until mid-October; after that the chairs within one week produced the version for the BFUG meeting. Considering the feedback received after the BFUG meeting, further revision was made. There was a suggestion to eventually have one more meeting of WG3 chairs between 6 and 23 January in Brussels or Paris (depending on the feedback received at the Tartu BFUG meeting).

Additional results (not aimed at in Terms of Reference)

WG3 concluded that the impact of quality has to be taken into account by adapting quality assurance tools, bodies and systems to guarantee flexible recognition of non-formal and informal learning, and to ensure that higher education programmes concentrate on intended learning outcomes. This cannot be done by HEIs, but on national and European level.

Regarding the *Teacher Support* and the relation between *EHEA and ERA*, WG3 supposes the BFUG might call on the Commission to build synergies and to create financial programmes. Intensifying links to regional initiatives/programmes could be another option. A funding platform for both the existing online platform and a proposed teaching and learning platform could be included in the Commission's proposals.

Proposed input for the 2018 Ministerial Conference

For the 2018 Ministerial Conference, the WG proposes to initiate the establishment of the European "European Higher Education Platform" as a networking source for teachers' support to share knowledge and experiences among education institutions, academics and administrators. It could also provide training for members. One of the key topics for country presentations should be the set measures of teachers' support and guaranties for quality of teaching.

WG3 also briefly discussed experiences made in different BFUG contexts (BFUG, Board, AG, WG ...) during the current working period. First proposals included e.g. to devote a more targeted mandate to each group and that the BFUG should give a more effective definition of tasks and expected tangible outcomes and call for evidence in the reports. As this discussion was only started, no recommendation on these questions was included. Between 2018 and 2020, a potential group working on "New Goals" should particularly look at the governance of the European Higher Education Area beyond 2020.

Over and above, the pathfinder group on *Professional Recognition* proposed by the WG3 could discuss the integration of qualification frameworks, accreditation and professional recognition. This pathfinder group should recognise that there already has been a pathfinder group on academic recognition and should develop a way for common understanding. So far, recognition is not made easier but more difficult because of national regulations. As the existing directive is not applied to the EHEA but merely to the European Union, agreeing on a conclusion at BFUG level would really create added value.

Proposed input for the Paris Communiqué

WG3 suggests integrating the key tasks published with the document BFUG_EE_RU_56_4_2b Draft Recommendations.