

Draft proposal Terms of Reference for Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue (CG1) for the working period 2021-2024

Name of the Coordination Group Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue
Contact persons (Co-chairs) The group should be co-chaired by members of the Bologna Follow Up Group. Ideally one of the co-chairs should come from the country hosting the next Global Policy Forum.
Composition An open call will be issued to the members of the BFUG. The composition of the group should be open to both current and new members, and should result in a small group of interested country representatives and consultative members. If possible, there should be a degree of continuity with the composition of the previous coordination group in order to facilitate completion and further development of the tasks interrupted by the pandemic. The Coordination Group can invite, when useful, relevant experts to collaborate in its work, from the EHEA or other parts of the world, and/or from international or global organizations (e.g. UNESCO regional experts, members of IAU, etc.)
Overarching Aims To foster dialogue and build trust between the EHEA and other countries and macro-regions through exchange of knowledge and cooperation, with the aim of addressing overarching issues more effectively, such as achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The coordination group is also tasked with the organization of the Albania Global Policy Forum and Statement, and where possible other appropriate events during the work period.
General objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reinforce ongoing dialogue at global level;- Promote awareness of- the vital role of HE in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and the necessity of global collaboration to do so effectively;- Propose how to enhance the EHEA's ability to foster, participate in and benefit from this dialogue.
Thematic objectives in the context of global cooperation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Intensify focus on the societal role of higher education to foster effective inclusion of learners not only at the time of access to HE, but also with respect to retention, success and employability;- Promote awareness that inclusive, balanced mobility is one of the most important keys to global understanding and to excellence in higher education;- Promote further development and use in practice of the transparency and quality tools necessary for advancing mobility and facilitating recognition;

- Create contacts and support reciprocal referencing of the several Qualifications Frameworks and Qualifications Reference frameworks now functioning or being prepared in the EHEA and in the other macro-regions;
- Increase awareness of the importance of student-centred learning and its implications regarding the usefulness of credit systems or reference systems based on Learning Outcomes and student time
- Develop dialogue about the challenges and opportunities offered by the shift towards digital learning environments, in part triggered by the pandemic;

Tasks

- Organize the Global Policy Forum to be held along with the Ministerial Conference to be hosted by Albania in 2024;
- Organize and implement events, meetings or other initiatives (including virtual events) to build awareness and dialogue with respect to the CG's overarching aims, the general or/and thematic objectives;
- Explore ways of initiating or consolidating contacts with other countries, macro-regions and organizations in order to develop and strengthen dialogue.

Reference to the Rome Communiqué [to be adjusted according the decisions on the Rome Ministerial Conference: if there is a GPF and Statement, the text in italics is relevant; if not, the relevant text is in bold]

We deeply regret that the COVID-19 pandemic has made it impossible to hold the Global Policy Forum as intended. *[to be adjusted according to how the Rome programme is finalized We recommit to international dialogue on higher education values, policies, and reforms, drawing on the experience of the EHEA as well as those of other areas of the world, and ask the BFUG to further develop and strengthen Global Dialogue in the coming work period*

“Jointly with colleagues who have participated in the Bologna Global Policy Forum, we commit to deploy resources to ensure that our higher education systems contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We look forward to the next Global Policy Forum back to back with the EHEA Ministerial Conference in 2024. In meantime we will continue to explore/develop closer dialogue and stronger cooperation with partners around the globe”. [to be adapted according to what is decided about the Forum]

Reference to the Rome Global Policy Forum.

“To further support interconnection, mobility and recognition, we will work towards a shared understanding and, where possible, comparability between the Qualifications Frameworks, Qualifications Reference Frameworks, and Quality assurance approaches, developed in different world regions.

“We take up our responsibility towards our countries and peoples, in order to unleash the potential of higher education to find solutions to the world’s challenges. We wish to support present and future generations to think and act ethically, creatively and critically to be able to face the challenges of the future. Increased cooperation across regions will strengthen our ability to find innovative and inclusive solutions.

“We commit to interregional dialogue and confirm the need to further strengthen and better structure our cooperation in the coming decade, taking our good existing progress to the policy level.

“We reiterate the imperative of contributing on multiple levels to achieving all of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in 2030, and commit to working more closely together in the coming decade to achieve our agreed priorities.”

Reporting

Minutes of coordination group meetings and updates on activities will be made available online to the BFUG by the BFUG Secretariat. The BFUG Secretariat, at the request of the CG Chairs, may circulate relevant updates to the CG members.

The BFUG shall also receive regular reports and updates from the group.

To ensure good communication with the BFUG as a whole and for the necessary consultations, progress reports shall be submitted two weeks before each BFUG meeting

Meeting schedule

Meetings are to be electronic when possible. Smaller ad hoc groups or task forces may be delegated for specific tasks.

The exact programming will be discussed by the Co-chairs and the members of the Coordination Group; an initial draft schedule can only be detailed when there is certainty about the possibility of organizing a Summit or Forum event in 2021:

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