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Ministry of Science
and Education

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MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
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WG1 Progress Report on developing the Bologna Process Implementation Report (BPIR), 2020

1 Context

WG1 has now held four meetings (July and November 2018, July 2019, and January 2020) to follow up on the Paris Communiqué request:

"We mandate the BFUG to develop a Bologna Process Implementation Report assessing the main developments in the EHEA since the Bologna Process began, including to what extent we have fulfilled the mobility target agreed in Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve in 2009."

The 2020 report is being developed in line with the following principles:

- 1) Focus on main developments & trends in the EHEA as a whole – and not on all issues in all countries
- 2) Make use of existing data, and limit collecting and analysing new data as far as possible.
- 3) Embed indicators within a clear narrative that is focused on discussing key changes over time.

In line with these principles, the report will combine three types of information: qualitative data – provided by the BFUG - quantitative data, (Eurostat and a specific data collection for non European Statistical System countries) and narrative texts on the main policy developments throughout the Bologna period.

As with previous editions Eurydice is responsible for the overall technical coordination of the report.

2 State of Play

Overall, the report – which is complex and reliant upon the work of many contributors using a variety of source information – is on track. The first draft of the report was sent out to the BFUG on 17 February for discussion in the Kiev BFUG. All BFUG members have the opportunity to submit written comments to the report until 16 March.

The main developments in recent months are as follows:

2.1 Qualitative data:

BFUG members received drafts of all qualitative indicators for checking. These indicators will be used to show the current state of play on key policy commitments. They include the scorecard indicators, and also cover all aspects of the three key commitments agreed in the Paris Ministerial Conference (three cycle degrees, recognition and quality assurance).

While many countries provided their feedback and corrections, a number did not. Nevertheless, these countries have been contacted again to clarify outstanding issues.

2.2 Statistical data:

The collection, production and analysis of statistical data is being undertaken via a contract managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). As in previous reports Eurostat data will be the main source of statistical figures, with specific data being collected from countries outside the European Statistical System.

Statistical indicators have been produced under the guidance of WG1 and analysis is currently being developed. The aim has been to show main, long-term trends where possible.

2.3 Narrative texts

As well as qualitative and quantitative data, the 2020 report contains sections presenting the evolution of main thematic issues throughout the lifetime of the Bologna process. A narrative section on the development of quality assurance systems has been drafted by EQAR in cooperation with ENQA, a similar section on the development of the social dimension has been written by Eurostudent, while a section on the development of internationalisation in higher education has been written by ACA. A further narrative section has been written on degree structure reforms, and a shorter text on recognition.

3. Remaining work

Working Group 1, at its meeting of 22 January 2020, discussed the work ahead in finalising the report. In addition to the checking and finalisation of indicators and text, there is work to be done on making links and ensuring coherence between sections. In addition there is significant work to do on drawing out key findings and considering their implication for the future. The Working Group is providing advice to authors on issues to be picked up as an “evidence-based projection” for the future development of the EHEA. A first attempt has been made in Chapter 6 of the report.

The Working Group also agreed that it sees this 2020 edition of the report as a way to illustrate how the EHEA has developed over time. The evidence underpinning this picture may justify the policy recommendations that will be made in the Rome Communiqué. However, the working group will not be seeking to inject specific recommendations into the Communiqué text.