

BFUG7 5c

Receiver:

UK-Presidency of the Bologna Process

Proposal for a BFUG Working Group on Qualifications Frameworks

A. Bergen Communiqué

On 20 May in Bergen Ministers responsible for higher educations within the European Higher Educations Area (EHEA) agreed:

We adopt the overarching framework for qualifications in the EHEA, comprising three cycles (including, within national contexts, the possibility of intermediate qualifications), generic descriptors for each cycle based on learning outcomes and competences, and credit ranges in the first and second cycles.

We commit ourselves to elaborating national frameworks for qualifications compatible with the overarching framework for qualifications in the EHEA by 2010, and to having started work on this by 2007.

We ask the Follow-up Group to report on the implementation and further development of the overarching framework.

We underline the importance of ensuring complementarity between the overarching framework for the EHEA and the proposed broader framework for qualifications for lifelong learning encompassing general education as well as vocational education and training as now being developed within the European Union as well as among participating countries. We ask the European Commission fully to consult all parties to the Bologna Process as work progresses.

We charge the Follow-up Group with continuing and widening the stocktaking process and to continue in the fields of the degree system,

In particular, we shall look for progress in:

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- *implementation of the national frameworks for qualifications;*

B. Membership of the Working Group

In its meeting in Manchester on 12-13 October BFUG is invited to approve the

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establishment of a working group to consider and report on the implementation and further development of the overarching framework.

Members of the Working Group are BFUG-representatives from the following countries (**provisional**):

1. Denmark (N-Europe), chair (cont.)
2. Netherlands (NW-Europe, subst. Ireland)
3. Russia (NE-Europe, subst. Latvia) (non EU)
4. Hungary (Central Europe, cont.)
5. Spain (SW-Europe, subst. France)
6. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(SE-Europe, new seat) (non EU)
7. Chair of the WG on Stocktaking
8. Bologna Presidency (UK-AT-FI-GER)

The Working Group can draw on expertise and commission research, as it feels appropriate.

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C. Terms of Reference

In order to realise the objectives set by the Ministers, the Working Group shall

1. consider what further development of the framework may be required, particularly the linkage between national frameworks and the EHEA-framework; the Working Group may invite member countries to participate in pilot projects of self-certification of national frameworks; it may conduct a survey on how credit ranges and credits are defined in national legislation.
2. support the Working Group on Stocktaking in the stocktaking exercise of implementation of national frameworks.
3. follow the development of the European Qualifications Framework and advise BFUG on opinions or statements to be made
4. provide assistance to member countries working to introduce national frameworks.

The Group will submit progress reports to BFUG and a final report of its findings to the London Conference through BFUG.