



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS ŠVIETIMO IR MOKSLO MINISTERIJA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

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Attn: Ministers responsible for higher education in the EHEA

Dear Ministers,

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I believe you would agree that the success of the European higher education area (EHEA) reforms and their sustainability depends on an active participation of the 47 member countries, the partner organisations and individual higher education institutions. All the stakeholders have a crucially important role in the Bologna Process, therefore their participation in the meetings of the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG) and its Board as well as in the activities of the BFUG structures established within the framework of the 2012-2015 Work plan, is particularly important.

Following the Bucharest ministerial conference, from May 2012 until 2013 September, two BFUG meetings and two Board meetings have been held. Additionally, each working structure has met twice with minor exceptions of some of them.

The Bologna Secretariat has recently carried out a survey on mid-term figures providing evidence to participation rates of representatives of the EHEA countries in the foregoing meetings. To our dismay, the figures in several cases have turned out as not very encouraging, i.e., the participation rate of some countries has been far from satisfactory.

It is true that the national governments commit themselves to the Bologna Process without any legal obligations. Nevertheless, in order to guarantee the specific dynamics of the Bologna Process, which requires national and institutional coordination and monitoring of national higher education policies, the participation of the countries is vital.

As minister responsible for higher education in the country that in the second semester of 2013 has assumed the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, I would like to urge you to take requisite measures with the view to ensuring your country's full role in the activities of the BFUG structures, with primary focus being on the meetings of the BFUG, an executive structure with a mandate to oversee the Bologna Process in-between the ministerial conferences.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dainius Pavalkis
Minister of Education and Science

