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Advisory Group 1: EHEA International cooperation

Paris (France), 12 January 2016

Draft minutes

List of participants

AIU / Association Internationale des Universités	Eva Egron Polak
AUF / Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie	Annick Suzor-Wiener
BELGIUM VL	Noel Vercruysse
BFUG SECRETARIAT	Fabien Neyrat
CYPRUS	Stelios Christophides
EAIE / European Association For International Education	Markus Laitinen
EI/ETUCE	Mike Jennings
ENQA	Maria Kelo
ESU	Karolina Pietkiewicz
EU COMMISSION	Marlène Bartes
EUA	Henriette Stoeber
FRANCE Ministry of education, higher education and research	Patricia Pol
FRANCE Ministry of education, higher education and research	Denis Despreaux
FRANCE Ministry of education, higher education and research	Elsa Comby

FRANCE Ministry of education, higher education and research	Dominique Bordes
FRANCE Ministry of education, higher education and research	Florentine Petit
FRANCE Ministry of foreign affairs and international development	Clélia Chevrier-Kolacko
FRANCE Campus France	Louise Watts
FRANCE researcher in higher education, university Lille 2	Pauline Ravinet
GERMANY	Katrin Fohmann
IRELAND	Gerry O'Sullivan
LIECHTENSTEIN	Daniel Miescher
OECD	Deborah Roseveare
OECD	Shane Samuelson
ROMANIA	Luminita Nicolescu
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Alexander Grudzinskiy
SPAIN	Luis Delgado
UNITED KINGDOM	Ella Ritchie

The representatives from ACA, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Serbia and UNESCO were excused.

Welcome and presentation of the participants

Members of the Advisory Group 1 were joined for the morning session by representatives from *European Association For International Education (EAIE)*, *Association Internationale des Universités (AIU)*, *Agence universitaire de la francophonie (AUF)*, *OECD*, *Academic Cooperation Association (ACA)* and invited guests from the French Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development.

The meeting began with a tour de table of introductions and brief outlines of the priorities of stakeholders.

The French representative of the Ministries, Elsa Comby and Clélia Chevrier, emphasized the importance of the EHEA 2018 Ministerial Conference which represents a genuine challenge to cooperation in reaching common goals and sharing common values. They underlined the French Government's priorities focused around new perspectives for EHEA beyond 2020, particularly in the field of pedagogical innovations and new digital initiatives for lifelong learning and mobility, the link between research and Higher education and EHEA international cooperation. The roadmap of this Group will be an important step to ensure a sustainable cooperation policy and the success of a renewed Bologna Policy Forum.

Objectives of the advisory group

The co-chairs recalled that this Group was not a group on internationalization of higher education but as outlined in the Terms of References, the present Group aims at:

- Defining a roadmap and engage in a policy dialogue with non EHEA partners to carry out a cooperation strategy based on shared issues and identifying concrete topics
- Defining the scope of the Bologna Policy Forum (BPF) in general and prepare the next one in 2018

Adoption of the Agenda

All the participants adopted the agenda.

Discussion on the previous Bologna Policy and the current European Higher Education international cooperation and policy dialogues

Discussion on the previous BPF

The co-chairs lead the discussion taking into account the evolution of each Bologna Policy Forum from 2007, when the concept was introduced in London (annex 1).

Key points came out from a very active discussion among the participants:

- The importance of engaging in policy dialogues with other regions
- The challenges for Europe to act as a regional bloc and continuing tensions between widening and deepening.
- The need to identify issues of common concern with non EHEA countries, find a way to get input on our agenda and establish joint processes
- The importance of strengthening the visibility of the EHEA
- The need to intersect with the international strategy and priorities of the EU
- The need to engage with the global context of mutual recognition
- The importance of coming up with actions that are 'doable' and not over ambitious.
- The need to recognize that many other regions may not be so organized as Europe although there are emerging frameworks and processes in ASEM and in Africa.

It was clear from the discussion that the BFUG process had become increasingly introspective and was not seen as relevant externally as a few years ago. This loss of impetus was reflected in the low attendance of non-EHEA countries at Yerevan and the low impact of its policy statements. There was a common agreement that the next BPF would play a key role to tackle those issues.

Bologna Policy Forum (BPF)

Agreed potential orientations for BFUG discussions

- Going global through regional dialogues (and not focus on one region)
- An agenda based on topic defined jointly with the potential regional partners and reflecting better the necessity for higher education to answer global challenges such as migration, cultural diversity, sustainability, social responsibility, security, climate change
- Topics should be coordinated with WG2 (recognition, joint programmes) and WG 3 (pedagogical innovations, research and higher education, etc.)
- Better contact with student representatives must be established.
- Integrate much more the BPF to the whole conference and avoid parallel session

Current EHEA international cooperation and policy dialogues

Presentations were made by ENQA, EUA and the Commission (annex 2).

- ENQA, as reference point for European quality assurance (QA) in the international context, is currently engaged in various projects with many regions of the world in order to support and reinforce

- QA system in Jordan, Africa and in Asia (in collaboration with ASEAN). ENQA is also supporting the establishment and development of independent QA agencies.
- EUA mainly works with universities from EHEA countries; however, it has a strategic approach to interregional dialogues where it represents the interest of its member universities. EUA is engaged in projects with regions across the world including Latin America, Asia, Africa, and North America on topics including modernization of management of innovation and research, student experience, qualifications. EUA has a large number of contacts and extensive networks- again it was agreed that it is important for the group to add value to what they are doing.
 - The European Commission has a large number of policy dialogues with non EU countries (e.g. Western Balkans, Mediterranean, Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asia, China, CELAC and the African Union).

Lessons to be learnt from the existing policy dialogues

- Avoid to duplicate the existing dialogues but add value to develop an international cooperation policy and increase the visibility of the EHEA
- Rely on the existing partners of the stakeholders and identify new ones at regional level without excluding any region (Latin America, North America, Africa, Asia, Middle East and North Africa, Pacific)
- Need to be thematic and responsive to non-EHEA countries
- Need to decide on the boundaries of our activity (teaching and learning, research, Student experience etc.)

Discussion and decisions on the tentative events agenda and roadmap 2016 – 2018

The afternoon discussion began with the idea of combining geographical and thematic approaches. All participants agreed on the difficulty to define such topics without defining them jointly with the potential partners. Possible areas that were suggested in the group discussion:

- Social inclusion in Higher Education (favored by several participants and ESU)
- Internationalization of the curriculum
- Recognition of qualifications (academic and professional)
- Cross border higher education
- Franchising
- Research/Teaching links
- Mobility and migration

Regarding the potential partners, the Group agreed that every member had to send their key contacts (one or two key contacts in each of the 5 regions). After having established this list of contacts, the co-chairs would start a dialogue and set up cooperation agenda after the list has been establishing. Once contacts and ideas for topics finalized, the Group could create a matrix of geographic areas and themes (on the model in annex 1).

Actions to be taken by the group and the Secretariat

- Integrate the new members AIU, EIAE, ACA, UNESCO, OECD, AUF in the Group, as experts (the proposal has been accepted by the BFUG board and will be validated by the BFUG of 7 and 8 March in Amsterdam).
- Regarding the liaison with others Groups, UK Co-chair will be regularly updated about the outcomes of the WG2 and French Co-chair about WG3.
- Spain co-chair will represent the Group in the BFUG Board meeting.
- Each member of the group will **send suggestions regarding key areas** of work together with **contacts of potential regional partners** to the BFUG Secretariat (with copy to the

co-chairs) by the end of February 2016.

- Each member of the group will **send a list of all relevant international and regional events** to the Secretariat (with copy to the co-chairs) **by the end of February 2016**.
- The co-chairs will invite for the next AG1 meetings potential regional partners

Next meetings:

- London 18 May 2016
- Nizhny Novgorod, 10 or 14 October 2016
- Madrid, winter 2017

Annex 1: General presentation of the meeting and feedback from the four BPF

Feedback BPF



Meeting presentation



Annexe 2 : Presentations of ENQA, EUA, European Commission

EUA



ENQA



E.U. Commission

