

## Advisory Group 1: EHEA International cooperation

### Sixth Meeting

Brussels (Belgium), 17 July 2017

### Draft Minutes

#### List of participants

BELGIUM VL	Noel VERCRUYSSSE
BELGIUM VL	Magalie SOENEN
ENQA	Maria KELO
ESU	Blazhe TODOROVSKI
EUA/European University Association	Henriette STOEBER
EU COMMISSION	Claire HERRMANN
FRANCE chair	Marie-Odile OTT
GERMANY	Katrin FOHMANN
IRELAND	Gerry O’SULLIVAN
OECD	Shane SAMUELSON
SPAIN chair	Margarita de LEZCANO-MUJICA NUÑEZ
UNITED KINGDOM chair	Ella RITCHIE
BFUG SECRETARIAT	Françoise PROFIT
BFUG SECRETARIAT	Mariana SAAD

Apologies received from ACA, Azerbaijan, AUF/ Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Cyprus, EAIE/ETUCE, Estonia, Greece, IAU/ International Association of Universities, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia and UNESCO.

#### **1. Welcome and Tour de table**

The representative from the EUA who hosted the meeting and the chairs welcomed the participants. A tour de table allowed each participant to introduce himself/herself.

#### **2. Adoption of the Agenda and feedback from the Gozo BFUG meeting (May 2017) and the joint co-chairs meeting in Paris (June 2017)**

The agenda was adopted.

The French chair explained that although several delegations expressed reservations about the relevance of organising a Bologna Policy Forum in 2018, a majority of the BFUG members was in favour of maintaining the event. The British chair underlined the need for the group to come up with a

strong project able to attract an audience. The discussions held at the co-chairs meeting pinpointed several priorities for the next BPF: it should be student centric, inspiring and practical in terms of what can be achieved, interconnected with what other advisory/working groups are doing.

Both chairs then addressed the communiqué. It was stressed that the BFUG needed the groups to give their recommendations for October. The French chair gave a feedback on the last meeting of the Drafting committee and presented a list of the themes that could be covered in the communiqué.

### **3. Bologna Policy Forum: Organisation and Topics**

The discussion started with a reminder of the important number of students in the EHEA who come from outside Bologna. The group has already invited representatives from international organisations who are all keen on continuing to build a dialogue with their EHEA partners.

#### **Organisation of the event:**

The French chair introduced the subject and explained that two and a half hours will be allocated to the BPF in the draft agenda for the Ministerial. The format proposed was to ask a keynote speaker to open the event with a 15 mn speech and then organise three roundtables on different topics all related to the main theme of Inclusiveness.

It was argued that the keynote speaker would need to speak for longer and that 20 to 30 mn was the actual appropriate length.

Several participants noted that two and a half hours was not a lot of time and that made it difficult to attract ministers to such a short event.

After discussing the practical aspects of the round tables it was finally agreed that there would be two round tables (and not three), each lasting one hour, all in plenary. Each panel of 4 invitees and a moderator would include: **three ministers and one stakeholder (with three of them coming from the non-EHEA and one from the EHEA)**. It was agreed that each round tables would last 30mn with 30mn for discussions with the audience. The need for “strong and charismatic” moderators was also discussed and the participants agreed that such arbiters were necessary.

The need for geographical balance in composition of the round tables was underlined. The question of the configuration (how would the panellists be seated, would there be a table or not) was also discussed although no decision was taken.

#### **Choice of a keynote speaker; Invitees:**

Several names were proposed by the participants: Mary McAleese, former president of Ireland; Julia Gillard, former Australian Prime Minister; Mary Robinson, also a former president of Ireland. It was suggested that a keynote speaker from the Middle East would be an idea to consider.

It was agreed that the chairs would draw up the list of invitees. It was suggested to look at the next big international meetings to identify high level participants. Thirty to thirty-five non-EHEA delegations were envisaged, with three members each (a minister, a student and a representative of the HE sector).

The Secretariat reminded the group that the BFUG needed to be informed at the Tartu BFUG meeting in November on who would be invited and how many people per delegation the AG1 would be counting on. It was stressed that the Board needed to be informed as well at St Petersburg (26/09).

The secretariat indicated that up to 40 official “seats” were available for non EHEA delegates at the BPF.

It was agreed that invitations had to be sent as early as possible, September being the preferred month.

#### **Main topic and subtopics:**

Under the umbrella of “Inclusiveness”, three subtopics were proposed for discussion: 1) Access of different student groups or learners to HE, 2) Issues raised by migration and refugees from a HE perspective , 3) the role of University or of HE (or HEI) in the 21st century society : education and training beyond employability (notion of Civic University).

Participants asked if the main themes to be developed in the Communiqué were already known as it would have helped for deciding on the BPF sub-topics. It was explained it was too early for having a proper draft of the Communiqué.

In the following discussion, it was argued that the event had to stress the importance for a global collaboration at HE level. The importance of having discussions on HE for migrants and refugees, as well as on transnational education were also advocated by several group members. The proposal of including employability as a topic was rejected as it seemed to narrow the role of HE.

It was suggested that the letter of invitation should clearly indicate that the event is about exchange of ideas on an equality base and that the EHEA wants to learn from those who have different systems.

It was finally agreed that:

-the overarching title of the event would be: **“EHEA policy dialogue: the role of HE in a changing society?”**

-with a first panel on **“Widening access and ensuring success in HE”**

-and a second panel on **“The social responsibility of HE”**, this last topic enabling to tackle topics such as civic engagement and the need for rebuilding trust in HE.

#### **4. BPF draft statement**

The Secretariat reminded the participants that if the group decided to have a Statement at the end of the BPF they needed to come up with a draft for the Tartu BFUG in November.

It was agreed that the Statement should comprise a message on priorities, the conclusions from the forum and a commentary on how the group worked. It was suggested that it should mention the dialogues the group has had with international organisations since 2015. It was stressed that the Statement should not be a binding sort of agreement.

#### **5. AOB**

It was reminded that the group needed to write a report of its activities for 2018 and that it had to be presented in Tartu at the next BFUG.

The chairs asked the Secretariat to establish a list of the non-EHEA organisations and their representatives already invited to AG1 meetings and specifying those which/who had come to the meetings. The list should be sent to all group members asking for complementary information on other non-EHEA structures worth to invite to the forum.

It was decided to hold another meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October in Berlin hosted by the DAAD. The Secretariat was asked to send a “Save the date” message to all group members.