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DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NETWORK OF NATIONAL QF CORRESPONDENTS 2012 – 15

Submitted for consideration by the Network of national correspondents in its meeting in March 2013 and then the BFUG

Terms of Reference

Name Network of National Correspondents on Qualifications Frameworks
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Composition <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All countries of the EHEA are invited to appoint one or more members of the Network. Members should have responsibilities as concerns the development and implementation of the national qualifications framework in their home countries. In cases where countries develop comprehensive frameworks, the responsibilities of the national correspondent(s) should include the higher education part of the national framework. Where the national correspondents do not have overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the comprehensive framework, they should maintain close contacts with those exercising this responsibility and/or with the National Contact points of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF).2. The European Commission and CEDEFOP are invited to participate in the meetings of the Network with specific reference to their responsibility for the implementation of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF) and the follow-up of developments of national qualifications framework for lifelong learning.3. Consultative members of the BFUG as well as the ENIC Bureau/NARIC Advisory Board and the European Training Foundation are also invited to participate in the plenary meetings of the Network.4. The Chair may invite individual experts or organizations to participate in meetings of the Network on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis and with specific reference to their role in relation to one or more items of the agenda of that meeting.

Purpose and/or outcome

The Network should facilitate the sharing of experience in the development of national qualifications frameworks compatible with the overarching framework of qualifications of the EHEA (QF-EHEA) as well as with the EQF. It should provide a forum for national correspondents to exchange experience and to discuss issues of particular relevance to the development and implementation of national frameworks. The Network should seek to further cooperation with the National Coordination Points (NCPs) of the EQF. It should report to the BFUG on its activities and may submit suggestions on policy and practice concerning qualifications frameworks.

Reference to the București Communiqué :

At the European level, in preparation of the Ministerial Conference in 2015 and together with relevant stakeholders, we will....

- Coordinate the work of ensuring that qualifications frameworks work in practice, emphasising their link to learning outcomes and explore how QF EHEA could take account of short cycles in national contexts

At national level, together with the relevant stakeholders, and especially with higher education institutions, we will...

- Ensure that qualifications frameworks, ECTS and Diploma Supplement implementation is based on learning outcomes;
- Invite countries that cannot finalise the implementation of national qualifications frameworks compatible with QF EHEA by the end of 2012 to redouble their efforts and submit a revised roadmap for this task.

Specific tasks

- 1) further contacts and cooperation between national correspondents of member countries;
- 2) further the exchange of experience and provide a platform for discussion of issues of particular relevance to the development and implementation of national frameworks compatible with the QF-EHEA;
- 3) as required, offer advice on the development and implementation of national frameworks compatible with the QF-EHEA;
- 4) further and stimulate cooperation with the EQF-LLL, in particular with its National Coordination Points;
- 5) exchange experience with and provide mutual support for the self certification of national qualifications frameworks;
- 6) stimulate the organization of Bologna conferences and events on issues related to qualifications frameworks and its relation with other key elements of the process as learning outcomes, Quality assurance....
- 7) as appropriate, advice the BFUG on matters concerning qualifications frameworks;

8) coordinate requests for assistance, including as regards self certification of national frameworks against the overarching framework of qualifications of the EHEA.

Reporting

Minutes of working group meetings will be made available to BFUG on the protected part of the website (by the Bologna Secretariat).

BFUG should also receive regular reports and updates.

To allow for good communication with BFUG as a whole and for the necessary consultations, progress reports should be submitted at least two weeks before each BFUG meeting. In between BFUG meetings, updates can be circulated by the Bologna Secretariat via e-mail.

Meeting schedule

The Network will meet 2 – 3 times a year, as required. At least one yearly meeting should be held jointly with the National Contact Points of the EQF. It may be consulted through electronic correspondence, as appropriate.

Liaison with other Working Groups and networks 'activities

The Network of national correspondents will report to the Working Group on Structural Reforms. It may need to make contact with other structures and in particular the working groups responsible for Mobility and Internationalisation and Reporting on the implementation of the Bologna Process and shall consult with the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Structural Reforms on any such contacts.

Additional remarks

Except in exceptional circumstances, members and observers shall cover the cost of their own participation.