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Advisory Group on Learning and Teaching (AG2)

First meeting, Brussels, 28 February 2019

Minutes

List of participants

Surname	First Name	Country/Delegation
Bijvank	Tessa	The Netherlands (Co-chair)
Delva	Tine	European Commission
Deželan	Tomaž	Slovenia
Ehlers	Ulf	EURASHE (Co-chair)
Gaebel	Michael	EUA
Gajek	Adam	ESU
Hollela	Caroline	Belgium French Community
Keller	Andreas	EI - ETUCE
Kohler r	Alexander	Austria
Korhonen	Jonna	Finland
Lalle	Philippe	France (Co-chair)
Maret	Antoine	Switzerland
Pukk	Janne	Estonia
Rosenbaum	Melanie	Holy See
Soenen	Magalie	Belgium Flemish Community
Zhang	Thérèse	EUA
Benedetti	Filippo	BFUG Secretariat
Kahani Subashi	Edlira Adi	BFUG Secretariat

Apologies from Bulgaria, Italy and Kazakhstan for not attending the meeting.

Welcome by the Co-Chairs of AG2 on Learning and Teaching

The Co-chair from EURASHE opened the meeting by thanking all the participants who were gathered to attend the meeting, emphasizing the fact of AG2's work to be focused on leading to the final output and the discussions should be around the report that will be presented to the BFUG members. Then he introduced the other Co-chairs of the AG2. The Dutch Co-chair mentioned the fact of the need for bold actions. The French Co-chair affirmed that AG2 should work on ensuring both topics of learning & teaching are envisaged accordingly in the work of the group.

Tour de Table

The participants introduced themselves and a short summary of their professional background in connection to the topics of AG2.

The agenda was approved with the alteration of the items according to the discussions during the meeting.

Introduction of the Advisory Group's Terms of Reference by the Co-chairs

The EURASHE Co-chair introduced the ToR, as approved by the BFUG via electronic consultation and proposed a timeline of AG2's work that aims towards the elaboration of a 1st draft of recommendations by the end of October 2019.

Then EURASHE Co-chair presented the results of a survey taken among all AG2 members.

Relevant input for thematic focus-suggestion from the Co-chairs:

The French Co-chair informed the AG2 members about the last BFUG Board meeting in Skopje, where the AG2 representative had presented the results of the survey. He also reported on the Board recommendation on increasing the focus of Learning in order to balance the Learning and Teaching. The Board also suggested to the AG2 to ensure there are no overlapping topics from the other groups, i.e. AG1 on Social Dimension and TPG on QA. Career development was also the topic raised and recommended by the Board, with the aim of producing recommendations on what the BFUG could do on the issue.

In the discussion on the item, participants raised the need of reducing the list of topics, focusing on the most important ones, and suggested to discuss the L&T topics in general prior to moving to the next agenda item and underlined the necessity of the AG2 to not focus only on teaching aspects, as it appeared on the survey results, and the inclusion of academic prospect and career development..

Relevant input for thematic focus-suggestion from the Co-chairs:

This item was discussed during the meeting in linkage with the item of introduction of the ToR.

Block 1: Creating a common understanding of themes and issues to be worked on

The EURASHE Co-chair presented the participants the idea behind this practical exercise.

The survey identified topics which almost all the AG2 members regarded as important, based on the perspective of their respective country.

The AG2 members were divided into three working groups in order to create a common understanding of themes and issues to be worked on as well as to define the scope and intention for each of the themes, sharing back and collection of good practice. The principal objective of this exercise was to master and enrich the discussions and perspective of each of the participants on all three topics.

AG2 members asked the Co-chairs to circulate survey result documents in the future among all the members. The BFUG Secretariat offered its support on all technical aspect of the AG2 work, such as correspondence with the AG2 members, forwarding official documents and their uploading to the AG2 section of the EHEA web site.

Block 2: Discussion on defining the scope and intention for each of the themes in small groups, sharing back and collection

The second part of the exercise was to set up the list of most relevant and important topics, as the outcome of the 1st part of the exercise, with most of the attention dedicated to the Learning aspect of the AG2 work.

A document containing three thematic areas and the related topics was drafted during lively discussions and included:

Learning – students

- Student-centered learning (supported also through curriculum design).
- Inclusive learning environment: flexible, empowering, accommodating different learning paths and digital friendly.
- Future skills, ...
- Skills to cope with new L&T; students to become autonomous learners.

Teaching - Skills and competences of teachers

- How to identify and promote good/innovative teaching.
 - Include teaching into career path.
 - Staff development of teachers (new teachers and LLL on pedagogical competences).
 - Skills and competences (Learning Labs).
 - How to develop teams of pedagogical professionals.
- environment support to teaching.
- institutional strategies and frameworks for teaching.

Organisation of and support of the innovative teaching and learning (institutional perspective)

- Process of curriculum design needs to be student-centered.
- QA.
- Innovative concepts and practices.
- within a collaborative and collegial stakeholder community.
- Digital transformation.
- Open education.
- Cooperation between institutions.

Transversal: LLL, social dimension, mobility, academic freedom, institutional autonomy, strengthening the link between education and research.

Support governments but consider the autonomy of the institutions.

Outcome: should be a set of principles that we can recommend to European policymakers.

Collecting possible resources (good practices, guidelines, etc. and initiative related to the themes and issues to bring to the working group.

Way forward

The Co-chairs informed the participants on the methodology of the 2nd meeting in April, in Paris, which will be held in a form of a hearing. The Co-chairs will invite experts who have worked on the three thematic areas. The Co-chairs will circulate a document via Google doc, in which AG2 members could share good practice examples. This document at the end would be sent to all AG2 members.

The EURASHE Co-chair summarized the tasks until the next AG2 meeting in Paris, 9-10 April 2019.

- Elaboration into statements of the topics' bullet points that have been discussed and agreed into statements.
- Provision of a document with criteria for the identification of good practice collection.
- Development of instructions for expert presentations at the next AG2 meeting.
- Invitation of the AG2 members to provide good practices examples via the Google document
- Proposal of a list of experts to be invited to the next AG2 meeting.
- Preparation of the report from the AG2 to the BFUG meeting in Bucharest.

For logistical reasons there should be an opportunity for online presentations.

All AG2 members agreed on the electronic consultations for the topics discussed during the 1st meeting

Any other business