



BFUG Board Meeting LXXIX

Hosted by Azerbaijan, Online

9 February 2022

Minutes

List of Participants

Delegation	First Name	Family Name(s)
Albania (Vice-Chair)	Linda	Pustina
Armenia (Outgoing BFUG Co-chair)	Tatevik	Gharibyan
Azerbaijan (Co-Chair)	Nijat	Mammadli
Azerbaijan (Guest)	Ulkar	Settarova
Azerbaijan	Vusala	Gurbanova
Azerbaijan	Ilham	Humbetov
Bologna Implementation Coordination Group	Kathy	Isacs
Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue	Soenen	Magalie
Council of Europe	Sjur	Bergan
Council of Europe	Katia	Dolgova-Dreyer
Czech Republic (Incoming BFUG Co-Chair)	Veronika	Schmidtova
Czech Republic	Zuzana	Poláková
Czech Republic	Michael	Karpiseck
Czech Republic	Karolína	Gondková
ESU	Jakub	Grodecki
ESU	Martina	Darmanin
EUA	Michael	Gaebel
EURASHE	Armando	Pires
EURASHE	John	Edwards
European Commission	Lucie	Trojanova
European Commission	Kinga	Szuly
France (BFUG Co-Chair)	Patrick	Nedellec
France	Mathieu	Musquin
Kazakhstan (Incoming BFUG Co-Chair)	Adlet	Toibaev
Kazakhstan	Yerbol	Moldakassimov
Slovenia (Outgoing BFUG Co-Chair)	Duša	Marjetič
Slovenia	Darinka	Vrecko
Taskforce on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA community	Daniela Cristina	Ghitulica
Working Group on Fundamental Values	Rose Ann	Cuschieri
Working Group on Learning and Teaching	Philippe	Lalle
Working Group on Monitoring the Implementation of the Bologna Process	Tone Flood	Strøm
Working Group on Social Dimension	Ninoslav	Šćukanec Schmidt

Working Group on Supporting the Implementation of the Roadmap for San Marino's Accession to EHEA	Maija	Innola
BFUG Secretariat (Head)	Oltion	Rrumbullaku
BFUG Secretariat	Kristina	Metallari
BFUG Secretariat	Aida	Myrto
BFUG Secretariat	Enis	Fita

***Note:** Due to the extraordinary circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic, this BFUG meeting was held online.

Welcome addresses

Opening remarks by the Head of Quality Assurance agency in Azerbaijan

Dr. Ulkar Sattarova welcomed everyone to the 79th BFUG Board meeting. Dr. Sattarova took the opportunity to request that Azerbaijan, as an active member of the BFUG since 2005, join additional BFUG working groups, including the Working Group on Monitoring the Implementation of the Bologna Process, the Working Group on Learning and Teaching and the EHEA Network of QF National Correspondents, adding that the BFUG's support on this matter would be greatly appreciated. With the BFUG's assistance, Azerbaijan has achieved a three-cycle degree system, as well as the implementation of the European system in accordance with the European credit system and ESG guidelines, the establishment of the NQF in accordance with the European QF and other significant developments in the Azerbaijani higher education system. With great focus on learners, through the renewal of study programs, mobility and joint degree programs, key changes have been made to the learning and teaching approach on a national level, resulting in new structures that have had a positive effect on QA and recognition matters. The national policy aims to make higher education more accessible and qualitative, to strengthen Azerbaijan's HE system's international competitiveness, improve research and innovation and achieve synergy between research and education. In the future, Azerbaijan wishes to pass a law requiring higher education to restructure doctorate education in accordance with European Research Area and build a lifelong learning process. It was reaffirmed the country's commitment to being a valuable member of the BFUG and to continuing to establish a set of principles that will assist teaching and learning in the European Higher Education Area.

Opening remarks by the Director General for Higher Education and Professional Integration, French Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation

Anne-Sophie Barthez welcomed everyone and thanked Azerbaijan for hosting the BFUG Board meeting. Dr. Barthez emphasized the significance of continuing to promote the fundamental values of academic freedom, institutional autonomy, participation of all stakeholders and accountability for and of higher education values, all of which are essential for improving the quality of teaching and research. In the continuity of the Slovenian Presidency, France will continue to strengthen synergies between higher education, research, innovation and societal services in order to contribute to economic recovery, support green and digital transformations and strengthen global dialogue and collaboration. In order to deepen the sense of belonging to Europe through more inclusive mobility and promoting the European way of life, France has presented draft Council conclusions¹ on European strategy for universities², aimed at improving the learning pathways of students, researchers and academics and strengthening the attractiveness of the whole sector across the continent. In support of this strategy, the French Presidency will lead the work on various texts to establish a framework for institutional cooperation and identify obstacles to overcome in order to strengthen synergies and perpetuate European university alliances by

¹ Draft Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe

² The conclusions, brought to the Council, respond to the Communication presented by the European Commission on 18 January 2022

providing structural support in terms of transnational cooperation between higher education institutions in Europe and on micro-credentials.

Dr. Sattarova and Dr. Barthez wished for a successful meeting and for an efficient interconnectedness of higher education.

1. Welcome and Introduction

1.1 Welcome by the BFUG Co-chairs (France and Azerbaijan)

Nijat Mammadli (Co-Chair, Azerbaijan) welcomed everyone to the 79th BFUG Board meeting and wished for this meeting to have been held in presence. Mr. Mammadli regretted that due to health reasons, the Deputy Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan was unable to join this meeting and the opening remarks would be done by Dr. Ulkar Sattarova, Head of Quality Assurance agency in Azerbaijan.

Patrick Nédellec (Co-Chair, France) welcomed everyone and thanked the Chairs, BFUG Secretariat and outgoing Co-Chairs for their support and contribution. Dr. Nédellec emphasized the importance of adapting to these difficult times through innovative initiatives and integrating current and future challenges, with focus on enhancing synergies among universities, particularly in terms of transnational cooperation between higher education institutions (HEIs) and research centers, international cooperation among academic researchers and careers, and transnational cooperation across Europe by enabling better understanding across all systems. Mr. Nédellec welcomed everyone to the upcoming BFUG meeting in Strasbourg and wished for a successful discussion.

1.2 Welcome by the BFUG Vice-Chair (Albania)

Linda Pustina (Vice-Chair) welcomed everyone to the first BFUG Board meeting of the year and praised the Azerbaijan Co-Chairs for organizing the meeting, although online due to the pandemic situation. She thanked the BFUG Co-Chairs for their hard work, and stated that France is considering holding an on-site or hybrid meeting in April 2022, following the news that the mitigation on the Covid-19 regulation has finally arrived in most EU nations. Ms. Pustina emphasized that despite the difficult situation, the work of the BFUG working structures has continued intensively. Furthermore, based on the proposal of the outgoing Co-Chairs, the BFUG Chairs discussed and proposed some changes on the rules and procedures that has been sent to all the Board members in due time as a draft document to be discussed in this meeting. Ms. Pustina acknowledged the great collaboration with the BFUG Co-Chairs, smooth transition with the outgoing Co-Chairs and the continuous support to all the working structures by the Secretariat.

1.3 Information by the outgoing BFUG Co-chairs (Slovenia and Armenia)

Dusa Marjetic (Outgoing Co-Chair, Slovenia) thanked the BFUG Secretariat and Chairs for the support and successful handover activities. Ms. Marjetic reported on one of the tasks as Co-Chair regarding the proposal on synergies of the Ad-hoc Task Force³ to Increase Synergies between the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), European Education Area (EEA) and European Research Area (ERA), that was adopted at the 78th BFUG meeting. Ms. Marjetic presented this proposal to ERA and EEA key stakeholders during an informal ERA workshop⁴, as well at the first meeting of the Working Group on Higher Education⁵, together with the European Commission. Furthermore, the proposal was presented in the EUA activity, held on 27 January 2022. Ms. Marjetic thanked the French presidency for their contribution and wished a good continuation of the meeting.

Tatevik Gharibyan (Armenia) expressed her gratitude to the BFUG Secretariat and Chairs for their contribution and support during the previous term, as well as for the smooth transition. Ms. Gharibyan concluded by wishing a successful meeting continuation.

³ Ad Hoc Task Force's mandate ended in December 2021.

⁴ "How to empower higher education institutions to develop, in line with the ERA and in synergy with the EHEA" workshop (14/12/2021).

⁵ A new Working Group on Higher Education within the EEA (<https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&groupID=3799>).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted without changes.

For more detailed information, please see: [BFUG Board FR AZ 79 Draft Agenda](#)

For more detailed information, please see: [BFUG Board FR AZ 79 Draft Annotated Agenda](#)

3. Update from the BFUG Secretariat

Oltion Rrumbullaku (Head of BFUG Secretariat) thanked the BFUG Chairs and outgoing Co-Chairs for their great cooperation and support to the BFUG Secretariat during their tenure and for a smooth handover process. Mr. Rrumbullaku delivered an overview of the key processes and activities undertaken by the BFUG Secretariat since the last BFUG meeting, including the contribution of the Secretariat during the handover to the incoming Co-Chairs. Besides a summary of all the meetings organized, it was provided statistical information on each BFUG working structure, the status of meetings organized, involvement in additional related events/activities of various WGs, as well as membership and attendance rates respectively. Mr. Rrumbullaku presented new membership requests for WGs and TFs, which were approved via electronic consultation prior to the BFUG Board meeting, as well as provided information on the participation in the electronic consultation for the revision of the Rules of Procedure. Finally, he informed the Board Members on the latest updates to the EHEA website, underlining that work on this matter will continue intensively.

For more detailed information, please see: [BFUG Secretariat Update](#)

4. Discussion of Possible Amendments to the Rules of Procedure for 2022-2024

Linda Pustina (Vice-Chair) presented the amendments in the Rules of Procedure, as per the outgoing Co-Chairs' request and as agreed with the BFUG co-chairs. Ms. Pustina highlighted the change in the BFUG co-chairmanship for the period 1 July 2022 – 31 December 2022, to be co-chaired by Czech Republic and Kazakhstan. Ms. Pustina further explained that in cases where a country has two or more representatives, the Head of delegation ought to be communicated to the BFUG Secretariat. Moreover, proposals for amendments to the voting procedure were presented. Although reaching a decision through consensus is preferred in the BFUG, if this is not possible, and in exceptional cases, a vote process should be conducted in person, online, or via electronic consultation. It was revealed that based on the proposal presented an absolute majority of votes is needed to approve a proposal, that means that, in the current situation, a decision would need 25 pro votes out of 49 (BFUG members). A discussion commenced on the matter of the voting procedure, with main focus on accepting a simple majority rather than an absolute majority. Further proposals were related with the need for a quorum, a minimum number of delegates to be present at the meeting for voting to be valid, and the proposal to consider three voting options: pro, against and abstain, with the latter not being considered a negative vote.

Additional comments were made by several members including further clarification on different matters (i.e., BFUG Troika, Partners, Role of BFUG Board, Functioning of the BFUG Meetings). As the Rules of Procedure were approved by the BFUG at the BFUG Meeting in Portugal (2021), it was recommended that revisions be made to this version only on relevant topics like voting or issues that impact consistently the working of BFUG and its structures, rather than reformulation of the majority of the document for this period. The assignment to perform an extensive review was suggested as a follow-up to be completed in the next working period, with the Co-Chairs and Vice-Chair formulating a proposal on the full review of this document. It was proposed that the revised Rules of Procedure be available for the Tirana Ministerial Conference or the first meeting following the Tirana Ministerial Conference.

For the next BFUG Meeting (April 11-12, 2022), it was underlined that new changes/modifications ought to be clearly indicated in the document, with a memo reflecting the rationale behind such changes. On another note, decisions taken by electronic consultation were advised to be reflected on the minutes of the meeting. Thus, a system of recording and documenting such decisions ought to be in place.

All comments would be received through email and incorporated in the document by the Secretariat, to be discussed among Chairs and then be circulated to the Board members and presented to the BFUG Meeting with the required amendments for approval.

5. Update from the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)

Ann Katherine Isaacs (Co-Chair, BICG) provided an update of the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group including its composition and ToRs for the 2021-2024 work period, as well as a briefing on the topics discussed in the three BICG meetings. Furthermore, she gave an overview of the work of the three TPGs including the membership of each peer group, specific thematic indications, organization of meetings, as well as submission of umbrella projects, Work Plans and Country Plans for each individual TPG. Ms. Isaacs also brought up several points for discussion and reflection related to the TPGs' success, with particular focus on increasing involvement in the TPGs' activities. A remark was made about how to encourage fewer active countries to become more involved in their respective TPGs, as well as how to ensure that a country's involvement in two or more TPGs is coordinated, as most TPGs have different representatives from the same country. It was advised for countries to have in place some sort of formal coordination system for its representatives that are part of various working structures, to ensure awareness of each other's activities. Ms. Isaacs stressed the importance of the TPG Co-Chairs ensuring that countries 'in need of assistance' and 'ready to provide it' contribute completely and pro-actively. Finally, despite the natural inclination to focus on *trendy* (but important) topics, it was underlined that the TPGs' emphasis should be focused on ensuring that the *basics* of the Key Commitments remain at the center of the TPGs' attention.

For more detailed information, please see: [BFUG Board SI AM 77 BICG Update](#)

6. Updates from the Working Groups and Task Forces

6.1. Working Group on Monitoring the Implementation of the Bologna Process

Tone Flood Strøm (Co-Chair, WG on Monitoring) gave an update on the WG on Monitoring, stating that two meetings have been organized thus far. The first meeting focused on the evaluation of the 2020 Bologna Process Implementation Report (BPIR), while the second meeting focused on developing a proposal for the structure of the 2024 BPIR. The principles behind the proposal included following the commitments of the Rome Communiqué, co-operation with other WGs, readability and avoiding information overload. Ms. Strøm described the elements of the proposed structure of the 2024 BPIR, emphasizing that the six chapters would be integrated into one report, with the possibility to be downloaded independently. She added that the feedback received from the WG members on the 2020 report was highly positive, and that good discussions on the structure of and indicators in the next report had taken place. The 2024 report would focus on the progress in the agreed commitments, as opposed to the 2020 edition which was more of a stand-alone edition focusing on key developments over time. The report's size would have to be carefully managed, with a combination of existing and new indicators in development, as well as a balance of backward and forward-looking orientation.

Collaboration with other WGs was emphasized as essential for the development of indicators, with well-established working relationships with the BICG and the WGs on Fundamental Values and Social Dimension, as well as a working relationship with the WG on Learning and Teaching following the BFUG meeting 78. The next meeting, scheduled for 21 March 2022, will focus on the development of indicators and refining the draft proposal, as well as in incorporating recommendations from the BFUG meeting on certain indicators (i.e., academic staff, short cycle qualifications, micro-credentials).

6.2. Working Group on Fundamental Values

Rose Anne Cuschieri (Co-Chair, WG on FV) provided an overview of key objectives of the WG on Fundamental Values (FV), adding that the work was a continuation of the commitment to promote and protect these values as outlined in the Rome Communiqué (2020). The Work Plan 2021-2024 was presented, with focus on the development of indicators on the *de jure* and *de facto* implementation of

academic freedom and integrity; organization of expert hearings; and development of a comprehensive monitoring framework for future reporting on the implementation of these values. The first task of the WG was to produce a definition for the three remaining fundamental values. As a result, expert hearings with academic researchers and relevant organizations were held on February 7-8, 2022. Draft definitions would be prepared and discussed within the WG based on the input from the hearings.

Further discussion themes included how to conduct evidence-based assessment, promoting values, providing accurate and objective indicators while taking into account the different aspects of each country, etc. A remark was made that despite being categorized as four fundamental values, the WG ought to consider them as six separate values due to the distinct issues they pose, and explore these differences. These include academic freedom and integrity, as well as public accountability for and of higher education. It was also mentioned that, despite their importance, the values sometimes conflict with one another. For example, public responsibility for higher education may compel public authorities to develop an institution or study program that is incompatible with institutional autonomy, and vice versa. As a result, the importance of how these values are assessed against one another should be emphasized. On this note, it was suggested that a series of thematic sessions be held in the interim between BFUG meetings to help the conversation progress. Further, the unfeasibility to develop new indicators and sources for monitoring the FV was underlined, with the ideal method for this WG being to draw on existing sources and combine them.

For more detailed information, please see: [WG on Fundamental Values Update](#)

6.3. Working Group on Social Dimension

Ninoslav Šćukanec Schmidt (Co-Chair, WG on SD) gave an overview of the WG on SD's progress thus far, emphasizing the relevance of the revised definition of SD, the Principles and Guidelines (PAGs), and the necessity to establish a framework for the implementation of the PAGs. The Work Plan 2021-2024, published in January 2021, was presented containing the purpose, objectives and methods of work together with the timeline, resources and communication channels. It was highlighted that the WG will organize five meetings per year, with the fifth meeting to be held on 26 April 2022, in person in Malta. The WG decided to create three subgroups to produce indicators for the three principles for social dimension. For further information on these topics, Mr. Schmidt highlighted that key documents related to the work of the WG on Social Dimension, including useful resources (literature, policy briefs, information on useful projects) can be found on the EHEA website. He added that so far, three meetings have been organized, with great turnout and active participation from members. Cooperation with other BFUG WGs has also been established, namely with the WG on Monitoring and recently with the WG on Learning and Teaching. The Erasmus+ project application ("Peer Learning Activities and Resources to Underpin the Principles and Guidelines for Social Dimension"), had been submitted successfully on the October call in 2021 and a summary of the peer-learning activities (PLAs) that had been completed thus far was provided. Mr. Schmidt concluded by thanking Malta for volunteering to host the fifth meeting in presence, emphasizing that the transition to in-person meetings is in progress, with received invitations to hold other upcoming meetings in 2022 in the United Kingdom and The Netherlands, as well.

For more detailed information, please see: [WG on Social Dimension Update](#)

6.4. Working Group on Learning & Teaching

Philippe Lalle (Co-Chair, WG on L&T) gave an overview of the group's first meeting, including its composition and specific actions such as developing measurable qualitative indicators; future skills development for teachers and learners; peer learning approach to support country members in developing concrete national actions; finding ways to fit micro-credentials into the group's work plan; and making concrete recommendations on strengthening innovative learning, teaching and assessment. Following the first meeting, a *task force* was formed with the WG Co-Chairs and a small number of WG members, to exchange ideas and offer new directions in the WG's methodology. Following the taskforce meeting, it was decided to form three subgroups, each WG member participating in one subgroup and

chaired by one Co-Chair, to tackle different themes. Furthermore, the WG on L&T organized meetings with the WG on Monitoring and WG on Social Dimension to establish cooperation. The WG has established concrete measures to follow up as a result of these discussions, including proposing indicators to the WG on Monitoring on the BPIR, as well as working with the WG on SD to define common indicators and incorporate the issue of social dimension as a transversal approach. Following that, the WG held its second meeting, at which the Work Plan was adopted. The main activities in the Work Plan contained meetings of the subgroups and WG respectively, as well as PLAs to share best approaches, build capacity and consider European indicators.

A suggestion was made that the WG focus on developing recommendations and/or policy improvements to enhance innovative learning and teaching, micro-credentials, etc., and to present preliminary concepts that may be beneficial in the preparation of the Communiqué.

6.5. Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

Magalie Soenen (Co-Chair, CG on GPD) provided an overview of the state-of-play of the CG on GPD, including the membership with a new delegation (Belgium French Community) recently joining the CG, as well as information on the second meeting. It was emphasized that the draft Work Plan would be carried out with its mandated tasks with or without an approved project budget. In addition, considering the large number of CG members and the need for flexible and frequent interaction to perform the CG tasks, the Co-Chairs decided to form 'subgroups' with focus on macro-regions and relevant themes. The composition of the subgroups was presented, with the respective members for each subgroup and one Co-Chair chairing each subgroup. It was highlighted that the number of subgroups was not 'fixed', with the opportunity for new groups to be added if needed during the timeframe of the work period. Further, Ms. Soenen presented the draft roadmap for 2022, involving meetings of the subgroups and CG, as well as activities to be followed up accordingly.

A remark was made that the Global Policy Forum (GPF) has yet to establish a format that works. As a result, it was proposed that further reflection be given to this issue in order to come up with a better format. With a longer working period until the next ministerial conference, it was suggested that drafts of policy statements be produced early enough and concurrently with the Communiqué statement so that they may be considered in conjugation.

6.6 Working Group on San Marino Roadmap

Maija Innola (Co-Chair, WG on SMR) underlined the purpose of the WG to assist the San Marino authorities in the process of implementing the key principles at national level and informed that the WG has outlined a working plan that builds on the roadmap and on the implementation plans of Sammarinese authorities. The interaction with the stakeholders during the second, in-presence meeting in San Marino, as well as a detailed overview of the HE system in San Marino was highlighted. The meeting also comprised of PLAs and discussions on the strategy of the University of San Marino, the implementation of key commitments and higher education governance issues. Ms. Innola acknowledged the great collaboration with the San Marino authorities and their progress in the process of implementing the key principles at national level. The next meeting will be held in March 2022, at which time the WG will be updated on San Marino's latest developments. In addition to the WG meetings, peer support sessions in the areas of quality assurance, quality culture enhancement and higher education governance were identified. These sessions were planned to take place in February/March, with more potential topics to be identified if necessary. Further reporting on the progress of the San Marino Roadmap would be provided in the BFUG meeting.

6.7. Task Force on Enhancing Knowledge-Sharing in the EHEA community

Daniela Cristina Ghitulica (Co-Chair, TF on Knowledge-Sharing) gave an overview of the organization of the TF, including the scope of work and the group composition. Ms. Ghitulica provided insight on the topics and activities discussed in the two meetings and highlighted the application for the IN-GLOBAL project, to support the activities of the CG on GPD and the TF. The Action Plan was introduced, including

the tasks, as well as respective actions and methodologies aimed at spreading information and creating dialogue about the Bologna Process. Some of these activities included the development of a new section on the website, with the collaboration of the Secretariat, aimed at providing specific information to students/teachers/researchers, the activation of Bologna expert networks, organization of award events and the building of Bologna hubs at a local level.

It was mentioned that there may be too many activities to be followed up by the TF. In addition, it was suggested to introduce a newsletter concerning the spreading of information towards HEIs in the EHEA countries. For this activity, it was proposed that all WGs contribute by providing the Secretariat with input for articles. It was also stressed that a link between the TF and the BFUG working structures be formed so that contributions and collaboration in the execution of TF tasks/activities can be made. Following up on the discussion at the 78th BFUG Meeting, where it was agreed to revisit the mandate of this TF, members suggested that given the extensive list of tasks and activities to be completed, as well as the challenges identified regarding dissemination, information and enhancing knowledge sharing, this TF could potentially be converted into a WG.

As indicated in the Appendix, the BFUG will soon celebrate a quarter-century of the Bologna Process, thus it was proposed that this event be commemorated at the Tirana Ministerial Conference. As a result, the TF was requested to make recommendations on increasing information sharing and awareness through the Ministerial Conference.

Conclusively, it was decided that the Action Plan be amended, as certain tasks support actions other than knowledge sharing, such as policy and practice formulation. As a result, it was suggested that the list of activities be reduced (i.e., translation of the Rome Communiqué, award events, thematic sessions), with most significant tasks in terms of knowledge sharing to be highlighted.

For more information, please see: [TF Action Plan](#)

7. Update from the EHEA Network of QF National Correspondents

Katia Dolgova-Dreyer (CoE) delivered an update on the EHEA Network of NQF Correspondents' annual meeting (September 2021), with emphasis on advancement of the self-certification processes, integration of competences for democratic culture in qualifications frameworks and micro-credentials and qualifications frameworks (QF). Key focus was placed on the further development of vocational education, and an Advisory Board meeting was said to be held on 16-17 February 2022, with a QF report to be presented by Italy. Moreover, the CoE announced that it will produce a new publication on its Higher Education Series on "Qualifications Frameworks in the EHEA: a tool for modernization", to be shared with the BFUG on April 2022.

8. Discussion of the Draft Agenda for the Upcoming BFUG Meeting LXXX

Mathieu Musquin presented the draft agenda for the BFUG Meeting 80, to be held in France on April 11-12, 2022. The CoE stated that, at day 1 point 8 (Ceremony event for the 25th anniversary of the Lisbon Recognition Convention), they will host a reception with speakers to commemorate the occasion.

On day one, following the update by the BFUG Secretariat, the item "Discussion of Possible Amendments to the Rules of Procedure for 2022-2024" was added to the agenda. On day two, following an update by the consultative members, it was proposed to include a thematic session by EUA on *Mobility*. Despite the work of the WG on Monitoring on this matter, it was advised to include other WGs to contribute in enhancing and improving mobility, as the Rome communiqué also suggests to have a second benchmark, namely that every student should have some sort of international mobility experience (physical, virtual). With *Mobility* as a separate item on the agenda, it was advised to include more thematic discussions in the following BFUG meetings *such as Democratic Mission on Higher Education*. Additionally, it was recommended to reduce time in regards to updates by consultative members and that a pattern for written consultation be followed, with members asking for further clarification on certain items. In a similar vein, it was suggested that the WGs focus their updates on reports that identify issues that require input from BFUG. As a result, rather than simply reporting on the current state of affairs, the aim would

be to transform the BFUG meeting to gather input.

Furthermore, the item "Information/discussion on synergies between the European Higher Education area, the European Research area and European Education area", was modified to be more, if not already covered in the afternoon's extra-curricular sequence, a reporting point on the current state on synergies, rather than a point of discussion.

For more information on the different types of mobility, please see: [Joint publication by ESU and ESN](#)

For more information, please see: [BFUG FR AZ 80 Draft Agenda](#)

9. Information by the Incoming Co-chairs (Czech Republic and Kazakhstan)

9.1. BFUG Board Meeting LXXXI (Nur-Sultan)

Adlet Toibaev (Incoming Co-Chair) representing the Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Kazakhstan provided an overview of the implementation of the Bologna Process principles, including the establishment of joint, double degree and lifelong learning programs, and with many universities becoming part of the QS ranking. Mr. Toibaev also provided information on the adoption of the Turkestan Declaration establishing the Central Asian Higher Education Area⁶, and announced that Kazakhstan planned to host the next BFUG Board meeting on October 2022.

9.2. BFUG Meeting LXXXII (Prague)

Veronika Schmidtová (Incoming Co-Chair) provided an update on the planned objectives and related events for the 2022 BFUG meeting that will take place at the Prague Congress Centre, presumably in mid-October 2022.

As both Incoming Co-Chairs proposed to organize the respective meetings in October 2022, it was decided to hold an alignment meeting with the Secretariat to formalize the meeting dates and share them with the Board.

10. AOB

The Vice-Chair expressed her gratitude towards Sjur Bergan (CoE) for his significant contribution and continuous support to the BFUG over the years, as well as during the handover process of the Secretariat in Albania and the respective training, wishing for his further involvement and expertise in the BFUG. This congratulatory statement was supported by the Co-Chairs and members.

Nijat Mammadli delivered a summary of the meeting discussions and outcomes, and concluded the meeting by thanking the Chairs, BFUG Secretariat and the members for their contribution to this meeting.

⁶ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/education/-/council-of-europe-speaks-at-conference-of-central-asian-ministers-of-education>