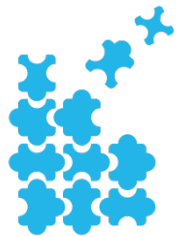


Update from the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)

BFUG Meeting LXXXII
Brno, CZ
7,8 November 2022



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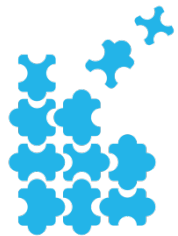


Summary

The BICG (composition, aims, meetings)

The TPGs (composition, aims, actions, meetings)

Challenges and concerns (matters for discussion and reflection)



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The BICG (2021-2024): Composition

Co-chairs

Austria, Bulgaria, Italy

Members

Albania; Austria; Bulgaria; European Commission; Italy; Romania; EUA - European University Association; EURASHE, plus one Co-chair of each of the following:

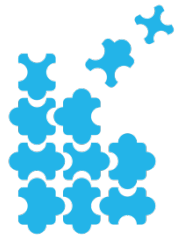
Thematic Peer Group A on Qualifications Framework and ECTS;

Thematic Peer Group B on the Lisbon Recognition Convention and DS;

Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance;

An observer from the Working Group on Monitoring the Implementation of the Bologna Process participates in the meetings.

The BICG is to be composed in a way representing the diversity of the EHEA and ensuring a balance of expertise across all key commitments.



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From the Terms of Reference of the BICG:

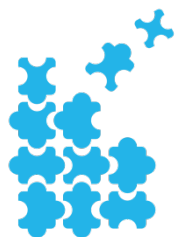
http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG_PT_AD_ToRs.pdf

Overall purpose: “The purpose of the BICG is to facilitate a coordinated implementation of the three Key Commitments”

In order to do this: the BICG coordinates the work of the TPGs, ‘keeps an overview’, and facilitates an exchange of experience and best practice between the TPGs

Its activities and those of the Thematic Peer Groups build on the accomplishments and findings of the previous work period and the recommendations formulated in 2020.

The BICG “reports to the BFUG on overall progress”, suggests any further actions to facilitate full implementation of the Key Commitments, and in due time will formulate further recommendations.



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Meetings of the BICG 1/2:

1. First Meeting of the BICG, 10 May 2021, online

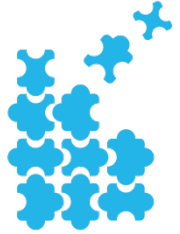
The 2021-2024 Work Plan (Terms of Reference, deliverables and meeting schedule);
The draft Guidelines for the TPGs; Status Quo Implementation of KCs; European
Commission support for TPGs under the Erasmus+ Program; Next steps.

[http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG%20 PT AD 1 Agenda.pdf](http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG%20PT%20AD%201%20Agenda.pdf)

2. Second Meeting of the BICG, 1 October 2021, online

Update from the Secretariat, the BICG Co-chairs and the TPGs Co-chairs; Umbrella
Projects, EC support; Work Plans of TPGs /discussion of Templates for Work Plans/.

[http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG SI AM 2 Agenda.pdf](http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG%20SI%20AM%202%20Agenda.pdf)



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Meetings of the BICG 2/2:

3. Third Meeting of the BICG, 21 January 2022, online

Update from the Secretariat, the BICG Co-Chairs; Umbrella Projects and update on EC support, update from the TPGs Co-Chairs; TPG Countries' workplans/discussion
[BICG 3 21 01 2022 Agenda -converted.pdf \(ehea.info\)](#)

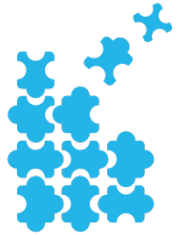
4. Fourth Meeting of the BICG, 29 March 2022, online

Update from the Secretariat, the BICG Co-Chairs; Update on EC-Support on TPG Umbrella projects, Update from TPGs Co-Chairs; TPG Countries' workplan, discussion
[Draft Agenda BICG, Fourth meeting.pdf \(ehea.info\)](#)

5. Fifth Meeting of the BICG, 25 October 2022, online

Updates from Secretariat, EC TPG Co-chairs and different PLAs

Regular pre- and post-meetings of the Co-chairs are also held.



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The Thematic Peer Groups: overall state of affairs:

Composition and the structures of each Peer Group established

Terms of Reference and guidelines approved

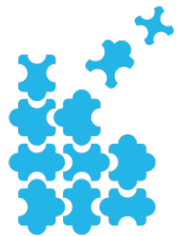
First, second, sometimes third and fourth TPG meetings held

Next meetings in October – November 2022

All TPGs submitted Umbrella Projects for EC support → **all TPGs received support**

All TPG workplans were submitted by end of October 2021

Countries were to submit their TPG workplans by January 2022: **most, but not all, have done so.**



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TPG A

Co-chairs: Austria, Georgia, Latvia

Members – 34

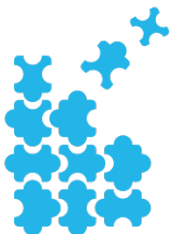
29 countries

5 organisations

Umbrella Project: QUATRA –TPG A Qualifications Frameworks for Trust, Transparency and Diversity

Partners:

Academic Information Centre (Latvia) – Coordinator,
Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (Austria) – Partner,
Agency for Education and Internationalization (Austria) – Partner,
Ministry of Education and Research (Estonia) – Partner,
National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement (Georgia) – Associated Partner



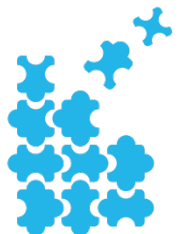
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TPG A:

Specific thematic indications include:

Self-certification of the national qualification frameworks to the overarching Qualifications Framework of the EHEA,
Complete implementation of the ECTS User's Guide,
Short cycle higher education,
Multiple purposes and use of the qualifications frameworks by the stakeholders,
Study programmes outside of the Bologna three-cycle structure,
Relationship between the qualifications frameworks and quality assurance,
micro-credentials,
learning outcomes,
databases, registers, digitalization.

<http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-A-QF>



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TPG A - actions

4 TPG A meetings – June 2021, November 2021 (online), March 2022 (online),
October 21, 2022 (face to face), Riga, Latvia

4 PLA meetings:

Micro-credentials and use of QF by stakeholders – October 21, 2022, Riga, Latvia

Implementation of Qualification Frameworks and ECTS – Focus on Learning Outcomes – May
2023, Vienna, Austria

Self-certification – Autumn 2023, Tblisi, Georgia

Assessment of learning outcomes on programme level – Spring 2024 - Tallinn, Estonia

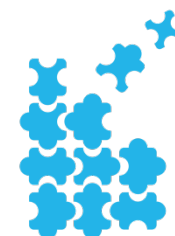
3 working groups:

Micro-credentials: First meeting, 22 September 2022 [ToR approved, countries share state
of affairs, ETF and CEDEFOP describe challenges for MCs], Oct. 20 (Riga)

Self-certification: First meeting September 29, 2022, 21 October (Riga) (WG work planned)

Short Cycle Higher Education, First meeting, September 7, 2022 [ToR approved, countries
share state of affairs, presentations on Latvian and other experiences], 21 Oct.

Survey among members of TPG regarding work plans : **Work plans submitted so far: 18 of 29/30**



TPG B

Co-chairs: Albania, France, Italy



Members – 46

39 countries

8 organisations

Umbrella project: TPG-LRC Constructing Recognition in the EHEA (**TPG-LRC CoRE**)

Partners: CIMEA – Italy,

Albania – associated partner,

HARNO – Estonia,

FEI – France,

Nuffic – Netherlands,

Swedish Council for Higher Education – Sweden,

ESU,

EQAR,

EUA



TPG B

Specific thematic indications include:

- Establishing the legal framework to allow the implementation of the LRC;
- Establishing the distribution of work and responsibilities among the competent institutions that have the right knowledge and capacity to carry out recognition procedures;
- Achieving automatic recognition;
- Recognition of alternative pathways;
- Ensuring the fair recognition of qualifications held by refugees;
- Optimising the potential of digital technology for the recognition agenda and the Diploma Supplement.

<http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-B-LRC>

TPG B – ongoing and planned actions (1)



TPG B meetings

- Three meetings already held: two online, one Paris/Sèvres, June 2022
- Fourth TPG B meeting – January 2023 (online)
- Fifth TPG B meeting – June 2023 (Albania)
- Sixth TPG B meeting – January 2024 (online)
- Seventh TPG B meeting – May 2024 (TBD according to the Ministerial conference)

Public seminars - in conjunction with the face-to-face meetings

- Seminar on automatic recognition
- Seminar on digitalisation

Ad-hoc peer support activity

- Peer support activity on digitalisation for the recognition agenda and alternative pathways – 10 June 2022 Paris/Sèvres/FR
- Further activities based on the needs expressed by the TPG members

<http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-B-LRC>

TPG B – ongoing and planned actions (2)



Research and publications

- 4 Working groups established:
 - WG1 on micro-credentials (EUA, IT, NL) first meeting online (21 September 2022)
 - WG2 on digitalisation (EQAR, IT, NL) first meeting online (September/October 2022)
 - WG3 on quality of recognition (EE, EQAR, ESU, EUA, NL) first meeting online (28 September 2022)
 - WG4 on European Degree (EE, EQAR, EUA, CIMEA, SE) start working at a later stage

The WGs will work on documents/studies focused on the mentioned topics



TPG C

Co-chairs: Belgium/Flemish Community, Romania, Kazakhstan

Members – 47

42 countries

7 organisations

Umbrella project: IMINQA – Implementation and Innovation in Quality Assurance through peer learning

Coordinator: Ministry of Education and Training (BE/FL)

Partners: ARACIS (RO), ENQA, EQAR

Third co-chair (KZ) involved as expert

Three other experts from Belgium/Flemish Community, Romania and EUA

TPG C

Thematic orientations:

Legislative framework in line with the ESG

Internal quality assurance

Enhancement-oriented use of the ESG

The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

Cross-border Quality Assurance

Quality assurance of micro-credentials

Quality assurance of European Universities

Digitalisation of quality assurance processes

Work plan: <http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-C-QA>

(35 countries OK, 2 countries partly filled, 5 countries not filled)



TPG C

6 TPG meetings for all members (4 physical, 2 online meetings):

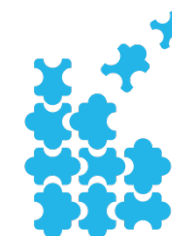
- ***Kick-off 30 June 2021 – online***
- ***17, 18 May 2022, Leuven, BE/FL***
- 2nd meeting: 30 November 2022 – online
- 3rd meeting: May 2023 - Kazakhstan

3 PLAs:

- ***Aligning the legal framework with the ESG, 1 Sept. 2022, BE/FL***
- Cross-border QA and QA of transnational education, March 2023, RO
- European Approach to the QA of joint programmes, Sept. 2023, BE

Staff mobility programme:

- ***Call for proposals June 2022***
- ***Deadline for applications 31 July 2022 (41 applications, 34 QA agencies, 4 ministries, 3 stakeholder org./14 dark green, 1 light green, 2 yellow, 4 orange countries)***
- ***Matchmaking committee 31 August 2022***
- Mobilities October 2022 – March 2023
- Second call for proposals Feb-March 2023



TPG C

3 Thematic WPs:

QA of Micro-credentials (ENQA)

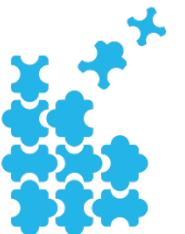
- *establishment WG June 2022: 32 participants from 25 EHEA countries & 3 stakeholder organisations*
- *first meeting 2 Sept 2022 (BE)*
- composition of subgroups working on desk research, guiding documents for HEIs and QAA
- inclusion MC providers in DEQAR, feasibility quality label, harmonised data standard

QA of European Universities (BE)

- *establishment WG June 2022: 33 participants from 19 EHEA countries & 6 stakeholder organisations*
- *first meeting 17 June (BE, online)*
- analysis of legal obstacles
- feasibility study in 5 selected EHEA countries, including 2 small PLAs

Digitalisation of QA processes (RO)

- mapping exercise start October 2022
- thematic workshop to discuss outcomes Nov 2024



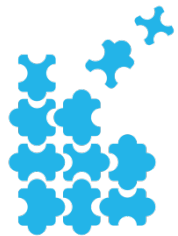
Challenges, topics of discussion and reflection

In a generally positive context, matters for discussion and consideration are:

- how to stimulate more active **participation** in the TPG activities by all countries
- how to **ensure** that **both** countries that believe they have completely implemented the Key Commitments and those that believe they need support participate fully and pro-actively
- **coordination among the various representatives (in different TPG) of each country is necessary but often problematic.**

The BICG's mission is to ensure that the **Key Commitments themselves** are at the **centre** of the TPGs' attention. Sometimes relevant but less central issues are at the forefront.

Complete and compatible implementation of the 'Key Commitments' is necessary for the realization of the other EHEA commitment – including new ones.



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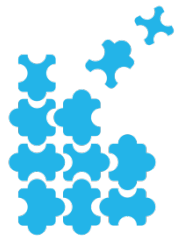
On behalf of the BICG

Helga Posset (Austria)

Ivana Radonova (Bulgaria)

Ann Katherine Isaacs (Italy)

Thank you!



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