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Ministry of
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Coordination Group 1 on Global Policy Dialogue

Third meeting, Rome, 22 October 2019

Minutes

List of participants

Family name(s)	First name	Country / Institution
Arienzo	Alessandro	ETUCE
Fohmann	Katrin	Germany
Gaebel	Michael	EUA
Hollela	Caroline	Belgium French Community
Isaacs	Ann Katherine	Italy
Kelo	Maria	ENQA
Lagier	Hélène	France
Rosenbaum	Melanie	Holy See
Simoniescu	Liliana	UNESCO
Soenen	Magalie	Belgium Flemish Community
Ioimo	Clarissa	BFUG Secretariat
Kahani Subashi	Edlira Adi	BFUG Secretariat

Apologies from: Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Ireland, European Commission, Kazakhstan, United Kingdom.

1. Welcome by the Co-Chairs of CG1 on Global Policy Dialogue

The Co-chairs of the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue (CG1 on GPD) welcomed the participants and shared the apologies from members unable to attend the meeting. They introduced the agenda and emphasized the high expectations from the day's discussions and meetings. Among other things they expect to gather input and to share ideas on how the Global Policy Forum should be organized. The aim of the meeting itself was to prepare for the morning's meeting with the cultural and education attachés of the embassies in Rome, to present the ideas in regard the organization of the GPF, to discuss and reflect on how in general to move forward. At the end of the main meeting, the Drafting subgroup of the CG1 on GPD should work on the structure of the Statement, as the document already presented must be considered very preliminary. Then the Co-Chairs gave an update on the meetings in the framework of Festival of Diplomacy and told the participants that Hiligije van't Land of the International Association of Universities has accepted the invitation to act as panel moderator for the meeting with the attachés.. Therefore she will join a part of the meeting.

The agenda was adopted without modification.

2. Feedback from the Istanbul Board meeting

The Co-chairs informed the participants about the update presented to the Board in Istanbul regarding the work of the CG1 , carried out so far and providing information on the 3rd meeting of the CG1 and the other meetings planned in Rome on 22 October. The Board asked about the procedures for inviting countries and organisations to the Global Policy Forum and asked the Co-chairs to provide within a short time a list of invitees, which should be checked with the European Commission and UNESCO. The idea of the group is to invite almost all countries, except for a couple of States that would create particular problems. Members stressed the importance of sending a *Save the Date* soon, especially to non-EHEA countries. The BFUG Secretariat informed that a formal invitation from the Italian Minister for Education is ready to be sent to the Minister in charge of Higher Education in each of the EHEA members States with the preliminary information about the event, while still waiting to receive the updated contact person by several EHEA Countries. With regard to the non-EHEA countries, the lists will be provided as soon as possible in order for them to be checked and finalised.

3. Tour de table: news from CG members

A tour de table followed, with participants giving a short summary of their activities on international level, involving non EHEA participants. The Co-chairs stressed the importance of collaboration with states that are not part of the EHEA. **Germany** informed on some initiatives that include EHEA and non-EHEA countries and stressed the importance of increasing the mobility in higher education between EHEA countries and non-EHEA ones; DAAD supports involvement through their offices in many countries. Two of the projects

mentioned are with Portugal and Ghana. **France** emphasized the importance of cooperation with Africa and stressed that they have many projects in the continent. Collaboration with Senegal and Tunisia was mentioned, but there are other projects involving many African partners. Moreover, French higher education campuses are also being set up on the African continent. **Belgium French Community and Belgim Flemish Community** are both part of the ASEM standing working group to support the vision of the ASEM process towards 2030 and to give more structure to the ASEM process. The first meeting will be in December 2019 in Berlin. **Belgium Flemish Community** also chairs the ASEM Expert Group on Credit Transfer Mechanisms and Learning Outcome Systems. This group will organise its next meeting on 4th November 2019 in Lyon, France. On 5th November there will be back-to-back a PLA on the link between learning outcomes and mobility. **UNESCO** informed about the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education, which will be discussed and almost certainly approved in November 2019, first in the education committee and then in plenary session at the UNESCO General Conference UNESCO has already ensured that all first-generation regional recognition conventions were revised prior to move to the Global Convention. The work related to recognition is seen as connected to the initiative for the global UNESCO passport for refugees and vulnerable migrants. UNESCO has launched a big initiative on the future of education, and organizing the work around this initiative is very challenging. Some topics of this initiative are of importance not only to UNESCO, but also on national and institutional level. The **Holy See** was part of the group working on the draft text of the Tokyo Convention. As far as the Asia-Pacific region is concerned, the Holy See attended the meeting in Bangkok in September connected to the ENIC-NARIC network. **ENQA** has been involved in two projects on QA in Africa and an ASEAN project on QA and QF. **EUA** emphasized the importance of inclusion of refugees in higher education programmes. The Italian Co-chair of CG1 on GPD, delegated by the **representative of the EC** who was unable to be present, informed the members of the group about the activities of the EC, pointing out that the EC has a traditional collaboration and policy dialogue with many regions of the world, from Mediterranean to Asia, from Latin America to Africa. The EC's objectives are many, to name a few, mobility and inclusion.

4. Programme of the meeting with the attachés for education and culture of foreign embassies

The Co-chairs explained the structure of the meeting and stressed the importance of the meeting with the attachés for education and culture of the foreign embassies for pursuing Global Policy Dialogue and raising interest in and awareness of the planned Global Policy Forum. They informed that the final structure of the meeting with the attachés, “HE in a global context”, has changed somewhat from the format initially planned in Bologna, as it is placed in the context of the Festival of Diplomacy, with the invitations being sent out by the organisers of the Festival to the Diplomatic Representations. Members of the CG1 on GPD thanked for organising the meeting, stressed the importance of this event and emphasised the need to cooperate and avoid producing a Global Policy Statement sounding too Eurocentric. The Co-chairs insisted that the various interventions by the panellists must be very short in order to give time and space to the guests and give them the opportunity to

express their ideas, input and proposals. They recommended that all members of the CG take advantage of the opportunity to dialogue with the guests, both during the meeting itself and informally during lunch, and aim for cooperation and global dialogue in view not only of the Global Policy Forum, but also for 2030.

5. HE in a global context, meeting with attachés for education and culture of foreign embassies

Mr. Vito Borrelli, Acting Head of EU Representation in Rome, welcomed the participants and expressed the importance of such an event taking place in the context of the Week of Diplomacy. Dr. Federico Cinquepalmi, Head of the Department for Internationalization of Higher Education at the Italian Ministry for Education, University and Research, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Italian government, gave a short briefing about the Bologna Process and presented the EHEA Ministerial Conference, the Bologna Policy Forum and the Global Summit to be held at *La Nuvola* Center in Rome in June 2020. It was suggested that the BFUG Secretariat should send the PowerPoint presentations for information to the participants and, in case of doubt or if more information is required, it was recommended to contact the BFUG Secretariat. The CG1 on GPD Co-chairs welcomed the participants and pointed out the importance of the meeting in the global context of the EHEA policy and for internationalisation of Higher Education. They also gave some information on the CG1 on Global Policy Dialogue and emphasised the importance of previous Bologna Policy Fora and Statements, citing the most recent one, in Paris. It was also said that on the [EHEA website](#) people can find more information about Ministerial Conferences and the Global Policy Forum and the previous Bologna Policy Statement. After the introductory part, the panel itself took place. The moderator, Hilligje van't Land, Executive Secretary of the International Association of Universities (IAU) thanked the participants, especially the representatives from Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Romania, Colombia, Belgium/Flemish Community and Libya and presented the panellists: Michael Gaebel, Director of Higher Education Policy, European University Association (EUA), Liliana Simoniescu, Programme Specialist UNESCO and Maria Kelo, Director, European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). Hilligje van't Land conveyed the apologies of Gianpaolo Suriano, Deputy Head, International Cooperation Unit Directorate General Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, European Commission, for not being able to attend the meeting. The Italian Co-chair of CG1 on GPD read the message from the European Commission, saying that the EC has established a number of fora for dialogue on higher education policy with countries and regions outside of the EU, for example Africa, Latin America, Asia (especially China, South Korea and Japan). Cooperation with non-EU Member States enhances the quality of education and training in the EU and beyond, by promoting peer learning and comparative analysis between national education systems worldwide and it boosts innovation and job creation through mobility. In conclusion, it was stated that this has all been made possible by the Bologna Process. As agreed, after the short speeches of the panellists, the moderator Hilligje van't Land asked the guests to take part in the discussion and present their priorities, possible topics for dialogue, and in general their reactions and input. The following feedbacks emerged from the debate as priorities or matters of particular interest:

- ✓ Connection with research, industry, business
- ✓ Inclusion, accessibility
- ✓ Mobility (inclusive, meaningful, mobility of people, minds and knowledge)
- ✓ Continue to work with regional partners
- ✓ Refugees
- ✓ Employability
- ✓ Inclusion within HE to prevent unemployment
- ✓ Innovation in study programmes\curricula
- ✓ Academic freedom, institutional autonomy, value-based education
- ✓ Lifelong learning, as integrated part of services of universities

6. Feedback of the meeting with attachés for education and culture of foreign embassies

All members of the CG1 on GPD expressed a positive opinion on the outcome of the meeting. UNESCO suggested to duplicate the event in Paris with UNESCO ambassadors during the UNESCO General Conference in November 2019, organized by the BFUG Secretariat jointly with the Italian Permanent representation to UNESCO. Members appreciated the fact that the meeting was attended not only by some registered persons, such as Saudi Arabia, but also by Colombia and Libya who had not communicated that they would be present at the event. It was noted that the debate revealed an interest in the event and that there was significant number of participants. The presence of delegates from EHEA member countries, such as Belgium Flemish Community, Sweden and Romania, was also appreciated. Members of CG1 on GPD appreciated the organisation of the meeting, the clear and concise way in which the Bologna Process and the Global Policy Forum were illustrated and the bilateral meetings that took place before the main meeting which were of great importance as well. It was also proposed to send to all diplomatic representations the power point presentations used during the event and the information brochure, produced by the BFUG Secretariat, in which the next ministerial conference and the global policy forum are presented and basic information about the EHEA given. In addition, the members of the group agreed to continue to inform and update embassies on upcoming events.

7. Subgroup 'lists of invitees' for Rome conference

It was recalled that the Global Policy Forum will be held at *La Nuvola* Center in Rome. Participants were informed that the building is very spacious, and guests can be numerous. France intervened by saying that this is positive considering that a maximum number had been set for the participants in the Bologna Policy Forum in Paris, which saw the participation of 40 delegations, of which 29 were not EHEA countries, and of 11

organizations. Some members asked about the delivery of the invitations to participate at the Bologna Policy Forum. The CG1 on GPD has been informed that the BFUG Secretariat will send invitations from the Italian Ministry for Education, University and Research in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, either through the Italian diplomatic representations abroad or through the foreign diplomatic representations in Italy. It was pointed out that the BFUG Secretariat has the contact details for 40 Ministers from non-EHEA countries, but that the list of contact persons should still be updated. The Holy See suggested that the CG1 on GPD could only **advise Italy** on how to send the invitations, but the final decision is up to the Italian government. It was proposed that, in addition to the invitation to the ministerial conference and the global policy forum, some information on the composition of the delegation should also be sent. It could therefore be indicated that a standard delegation should contain representatives of universities/rectors and representatives of students, next to the minister. In other words, at present, we might consider inviting delegations of three persons from each non-EHEA country, although the final composition will be decided in the future. Regarding the organisations to be invited, the subject was briefly addressed, then it was decided that comments and priorities would be sent in writing to the Co-chair of this subgroup. The composition of the delegations of international organisations can clearly be different from that of the non-EHEA countries' delegations.

8. Global Policy Forum, Rome: programme, structure, topics and side events

In conclusion, the members discussed the organisation of the next Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum (GPF) in Rome on 24-25th June 2020. It was decided to propose to the next BFUG meeting in Helsinki to organise the Global Policy Forum during the afternoon of June 24, in between the sessions of the Ministerial Conference. Regarding the GPF, it was decided to propose three blocks, starting with a plenary meeting, then parallel sessions and ending in plenary. The adoption of the statement should be planned for 25th June 2020. It was suggested that the agenda of the Ministerial Conference and the GPF should also include bilateral meetings throughout the duration of the conference, a step considered crucial by the members of the CG1 on GPD. The BFUG Secretariat informed that the idea of bilateral meetings has already been considered and proposed to the organisers of the event. Side events will be held in the program on June 25 afternoons and June 26 all day. Belgium Flemish Community informed the participants that there could be a proposal for a side event for the meeting in June in relation to the ASEM-process, there are some ideas about the topic from the side of the ASEM Education Secretariat, but they are still deciding about it. The BFUG Secretariat informed the participants that BFUG Consultative Members have been sent a communication asking for their expression of interest to hold their own events on a global level as side events. Participants expressed the need for geographical balance when organizing the side events, with all continents included, as well as an indicative number of participants for each of the GPF delegations (maybe three representatives, indicating also the composition of the delegation). Then, members of the CG1 on GPD discussed the choice of topics. With regard to the Global Policy Forum, it was decided to take into account the input received in the morning from attachés for education

and culture of foreign embassies. It was pointed out that the topics for the Global Policy Forum and for the Global Policy Statement, should be linked and, in any case, cannot be completely separate. At the end of the discussion, it was decided that the topics could be, or could be chosen among, the following:

1. innovation, new skills and the link to employability;
2. new digital ways of L&T in a lifelong learning context;
3. mobility of people, minds and knowledge;
4. including refugees in HE;
5. inclusion as a drive for excellences;
6. building trust in a global context.

9. AOB

Participants asked BFUG Secretariat to consider that there should be a BFUG meeting the day before the beginning of the Ministerial Conference, on 23 June 2020, as done previously.