

BOLOGNA WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS

BFUG8 4b
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Interim Report to the Bologna Follow Up Group Meeting in Vienna 6-7 April 2006

The Working Group was established by decision of BFUG in its previous meeting in Manchester in October 2005. The Terms of Reference was adopted in the same meeting as follows:

In order to realise the objectives set by the Ministers, the Working Group shall

- A. consider what further development of the framework may be required, particularly the linkage between national frameworks and the EHEA-framework; the Working Group may invite member countries to participate in pilot projects of self-certification of national frameworks; it may conduct a survey on how credit ranges and credits are defined in national legislation.*
- B. support the Working Group on Stocktaking in the stocktaking exercise of implementation of national frameworks.*
- C. monitor the development of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning with the aim of ensuring complementarity between that framework and the EHEA framework and advise BFUG on the matter.*
- D. provide assistance to member countries working to introduce national frameworks.*

The group has had two meetings: the first in November 2005 in Copenhagen and the second in February 2006 prior to EU conference on EQF in Budapest.

The results of the WG can be summarised in this way:

A. Further development of the framework.

The WG has invited two countries to conduct pilot projects of self-certification of national frameworks. The countries chosen was Ireland and Scotland. They both have a working framework and are quite different in content. The projects run from January to September 2006. The aim is to identify questions coming up in the self-certification process and provide good practice for other member countries.

The WG has decided not to conduct a survey on credit definitions in national legislations but leave that task to the ECTS-experts within the Bologna Promoters Group.

B. Support WG on Stocktaking.

In its first meeting the WG has discussed possible ways of taking stock of the national implementation of qualification frameworks and advised the chair for the WG on Stocktaking on the matter.

C. Monitor the development of the EQF for LLL.

The WG was invited to the EU EQF-conference on the result of the consultation process in the autumn of 2005. A result of the consultations and the conference was that the EQF level-descriptors

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would be reformulated for the purpose of a Commission recommendation proposal (September 2006). The WG will follow that development.

D. Provide assistance to member countries.

The WG will organise four regional workshops for SW-Europe in Madrid, for NW-Europe in Den Haag, for Central and NE-Europe and for SE-Europe (two last venues to be decided). The themes in the workshops will be the steps from decision to establish a qualifications framework to end of the self-certifications process.

The WG will organise a network of persons responsible for the process of establishing qualifications frameworks in the member countries.

Mogens Berg
WG-chair