

## **LIFELONG LEARNING COORDINATING GROUP**

### **UPDATE FOR BFUG**

#### **Purpose**

1. This paper provides a very short update on the work of the Lifelong Learning Coordinating Group. BFUG is invited to note the current situation.

#### **Progress report**

2. Both the membership and terms of reference for the Lifelong Learning Group have been agreed and posted on the Bologna Secretariat website (attached at Annex A)

3. It is anticipated that the Lifelong Learning Coordinating Group will operate primarily as an email network. However, taking advantage of the timing of the Slovenian Presidency event on "Universities and Lifelong Learning" and BFUG, there will be a short meeting of the group on 12 March.

4. It is expected that the group will:

- consider the conclusions and recommendations of the Slovenian Presidency event
- discuss how best to coordinate the EUA and Netherlands events, to ensure all aspects of lifelong learning are addressed
- agree the groups' work programme from now until April 2009.

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## ANNEX: Terms of reference for BFUG working groups

<b>Name of the coordinating group</b>  Lifelong Learning
<b>Contact person (Chair)</b>  Ann McVie, UK- Scotland
<b>Composition</b> (Please ensure the necessary balance with regard to geography, size, old vs. new, countries vs. organisations etc.)  Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Greece, Netherlands, Slovenia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", UK (Scotland), ESU, EUA, EURASHE.
<b>Purpose and/or outcome</b>  To ensure coordination across Bologna related events exploring aspects of lifelong learning, making recommendations as required to events organisers  To maintain an overview of Bologna related Lifelong Learning events taking place between 2007 and 2009  To consider the conclusions of all Bologna related Lifelong Learning events and identify points for possible inclusion in the Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué.
<b>Reference to the London Communiqué</b>  <u>Lifelong Learning</u> 2.11 The stocktaking report shows that some elements of flexible learning exist in most countries, but a more systematic development of flexible learning paths to support lifelong learning is at an early stage. We therefore ask BFUG to increase the sharing of good practice and to work towards a common understanding of the role of higher education in lifelong learning. .... Working in cooperation with ENIC/NARIC, we invite BFUG to develop proposals for improving the recognition of prior learning
<b>Specific tasks</b>  See above

## Reporting

The **Lifelong Learning Coordinating Group** will operate primarily as an email network. The Chair will advise the Secretariat of e-mail consent to any decisions. Short updates will be produced periodically. The consent and updates will be circulated to BFUG for info and posted on the Bologna website.

Conclusions from individual events related to Lifelong Learning will be considered by BFUG in the usual way.

The Lifelong Learning Coordinating Group will consider the conclusions from all events relating to Lifelong Learning and make recommendations on themes or specific points for possible inclusion in the context of the Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué. This will be based on a short summary of the conclusions and recommendations from seminars about Lifelong Learning.

Deadline for summary of conclusions and recommendations from seminars and recommendations from the coordinating group (draft version): 15 January 2009

Deadline for final version of summary and recommendations: 1 March 2009

## Meeting schedule

There should be no working group meetings in the last two weeks before any BFUG meeting (see point on reporting).

It is anticipated that the **Lifelong Learning Coordinating Group** will operate primarily as an email network.

## Liaison with other action lines

Please specify how the cooperation will be organised

Membership of the Netherlands, Slovenia, EUA, EURASHE and ESU will ensure coordination between the Coordinating Group and organisers of events relating to Lifelong Learning.

UK Chairmanship of the Employability Working Group and membership of both groups by France, ESU, EUA and EURASHE will ensure coordination with the Employability Working Group.

## Additional remarks

As far as possible, the group will try and ensure that the following aspects are covered:

- Recognition of prior learning (best practice, organisation of the process of validation of non-formal and informal learning, concerns on QA, possible guidelines, case-studies, etc.)
- Flexible learning paths and the development of national qualifications frameworks alongside with lifelong learning policies in higher education;
- Lifelong learning and the relationship with the social dimension goals of higher education.