



BFUG (ES) 20\_4a

11 February 2010

## **REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR JOINING THE BOLOGNA PROCESS**

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR BOLOGNA PROCESS MEMBERSHIP**

The criteria for admission of new members to the Bologna Process have been set by the 2003 Berlin Communiqué:

*Countries party to the European Cultural Convention shall be eligible for membership of the European Higher Education Area provided that they at the same time declare their willingness to pursue and implement the objectives of the Bologna Process in their own systems of higher education. Their applications should contain information on how they will implement the principles and objectives of the declaration.*

Like the existing members of the Bologna Process, **applicant countries are expected to commit to implementing the principles and objectives of the Bologna Declaration and all subsequent Communiqués.**

The realisation of the European Higher Education Area can only be achieved by incorporating the underlying principles of the Bologna Process within the higher education system of each country. In the context of the accession of new members in 2005, these **underlying principles of the Bologna Process** have been summarised as follows:

- International mobility of students and staff;
- Autonomous higher education institutions;
- Student participation in the governance of higher education;
- Public responsibility for higher education;
- The social dimension of the Bologna Process.

**Applicant countries are requested to confirm their adherence to these principles in their applications.**

The application should be **complemented by a report**, detailing the current higher education policies of the country in the light of the Bologna Process and outlining how the principles and objectives of the Bologna Process have been and/or will be implemented.

## PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

The decision to accept new members to the Bologna Process is taken by the Ministers responsible for higher education in the countries participating in the Bologna Process (normally at Ministerial Conferences).

The decision by the Ministers is prepared by the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG) that assesses the application(s) with the accompanying national report(s) and that, having satisfied itself of the credentials and commitment of the applicant(s), makes recommendations to the Ministers.

Countries wishing to join the Bologna Process should send an application for membership to the Minister(s) responsible for higher education in the host country/countries of the next Ministerial Conference<sup>1</sup>, with a copy to the Chair of the Bologna Process<sup>2</sup> and the Bologna Secretariat<sup>3</sup>.

The application, which should be signed by the (national) Minister responsible for higher education, should declare their commitment to pursue and implement the principles and objectives of the Bologna Process in their own system of higher education. The application should be complemented by a report, detailing the current higher education policies of the country in the light of the Bologna Process and outlining what reforms they plan to undertake to meet the goals of the Process. The attached template identifies headlines and key questions that should be addressed in the context of this report.

When an application is received, the BFUG Chair and Secretariat will verify that it satisfies the prescribed procedures. A confirmation of receipt will be sent to the applicant country. At the same time, the BFUG will be informed of the application.

For decisions regarding membership to be taken by the Ministerial Conference on 11-12 March 2010, the application(s) and the accompanying national report(s) need to reach the Bologna Secretariat ([secr@bologna2009benelux.org](mailto:secr@bologna2009benelux.org)) by **8 February 2010**.

*At its meeting on 18-19 February 2010, the BFUG will then assess the application on the basis of the criteria for admission described above and make a recommendation to the Ministerial Conference on admission of the country as a member of the Bologna Process.*

*The applicant country shall be informed of the outcome of the assessment and be allowed to respond. On the basis of the assessment of the BFUG and taking into account any representations made by the applicant country, the Ministerial Conference on 11-12 March 2010 will decide on the admission of the country as a member of the Bologna Process.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Minister Dr. Beatrix Karl, Federal Ministry of Science and Research, Minoritenplatz 5, 1014 Vienna, Austria  
Minister Dr. István Hiller, Ministry of Education and Culture, Szalay u. 10-14, 1055 Budapest, Hungary

<sup>2</sup> Minister Ángel Gabilondo Pujol, Ministry of Education, C/Alcalá 34, 28071 Madrid, Spain

<sup>3</sup> [secr@bologna2009benelux.org](mailto:secr@bologna2009benelux.org)