

Ms Ligia Deca
Head of the Bologna Secretariat
UEFISCDI,
Schitu Magureanu Nr. 1, et.3
Sector 5, Bucuresti, Romania

Brussels, 4 February 2011

**Re: Proposal for a thematic session at the BFUG meeting on 13-14
October 2011 in Cracow**

Dear Ligia,

At our latest meeting of the E4 Group, the four partner organisations jointly expressed the wish to present to colleagues of the BFUG at their meeting in October in Cracow a state of the art of Quality Assurance with an ensuing discussion, in the format of a thematic session.

The issue is relevant for us at this point that we are presently consulting with our respective members and stakeholders on the implementation of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), in the framework of the European Commission supported project MAP-ESG. The consultation processes of the four organisations are currently on-going, and it may interest the BFUG colleagues to learn about the first results discussing the impact and the implementation of the ESGs adopted by the Ministers of Higher Education in 2005.

The other issue that brings Quality Assurance to the forefront, in a wider circle, is the progress made by the ongoing external evaluation of EQAR, of which we will probably be able to communicate the first findings in cooperation with EQAR.

Thus, this session would also serve as a stocktaking exercise on the development of the European dimension of quality assurance for which the E4 Group received a mandate from the Ministerial Conference in Leuven in 2009.

Apart from these internal concerns of our organisations, there are the following prospective events which put Quality Assurance in the focus.

In the next communication from the part of the European Commission on the Modernisation of Higher Education, which is scheduled for Autumn this year, quality assurance will invariably be a focal point, at least indirectly, and also the next Policy Forum, that will concurrently be organised with the Ministerial Conference in Bucharest in April 2012, of which the preparations are in full progress, we heard that quality assurance might be one of the themes.

It appears from the above that Quality Assurance is (again) a topical issue, and naturally the E4 partners would want to share their views on this and hear from the BFUG representatives about theirs.

I am therefore proposing, on behalf of the E4 organisations, that this proposal is discussed as part of the Agenda in the upcoming board meeting of the BFUG in Andorra on 11 February under item 12 (Agenda of the BFUG meeting, Cracow).

I would be grateful if this proposal could be considered, and am looking forward to your reply.

With my best regards,



Stefan Delplace
Acting chair of the E4 group
Meeting of 17 January 2011

Cc Board of the BFUG