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# Terms of Reference

# of

# the Advisory group on Dealing with non-implementation

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| **Name of the Advisory group** Advisory group on Dealing with non-implementation  |
| **Contact person (Chair)**Una VIDARSDOTTIR – Iceland (una.strand.vidarsdottir@mrn.is ; una.vidarsdottir@gmail.com ) |
| **Composition - Members** Albania, Council of Europe, EI/ETUCE, EQAR, ESU, EU Commission, EURASHE, France, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Netherland, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine.[[1]](#footnote-1)[[2]](#footnote-2)[[3]](#footnote-3)[[4]](#footnote-4) |
| **Purpose and/or outcome** The Advisory group on Dealing with non-implementation is mandated to submit proposals for addressing the issue of non-implementation and incorrect implementation of key commitments (how to implement them best by respecting and reflecting the EHEA instruments and the EHEA culture). |
| **Reference to the Yerevan Communiqué*** The governance and working methods of the EHEA must develop to meet these challenges. We ask the BFUG to review and simplify its governance and working methods, to involve higher education practitioners in its work programme, and to submit proposals for addressing the issue of non-implementation of key commitments in time for our next meeting.
* Implementing agreed structural reforms is a prerequisite for the consolidation of the EHEA and, in the long run, for its success. A common degree structure and credit system, common quality assurance standards and guidelines, cooperation for mobility and joint programmes and degrees are the foundations of the EHEA. We will develop more effective policies for the recognition of credits gained abroad, of qualifications for academic and professional purposes, and of prior learning. Full and coherent implementation of agreed reforms at the national level requires shared ownership and commitment by policy makers and academic communities and stronger involvement of stakeholders. Non-implementation in some countries undermines the functioning and credibility of the whole EHEA. We need more precise measurement of performance as a basis for reporting from member countries. Through policy dialogue and exchange of good practice, we will provide targeted support to member countries experiencing difficulties in implementing the agreed goals and enable those who wish to go further to do so.
* Nonetheless, implementation of the structural reforms is uneven and the tools are sometimes used incorrectly or in bureaucratic and superficial ways. Continuing improvement of our higher education systems and greater involvement of academic communities are necessary to achieve the full potential of the EHEA. We are committed to completing the work, and recognize the need to give new impetus to our cooperation.
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| **Specific tasks*** To develop an approach of dealing with non-implementation or incorrect implementation of the main principles and tools of the EHEA by respecting and reflecting the EHEA instruments and the EHEA culture;
* To identify key commitments concerning the non-implementation;
* To submit proposals to the BFUG for addressing the issue of non-implementation of key commitments (e.g. through peer learning, policy advice, assistance, action plans, minimum standards);
* To keep the Working Group on “Implementation - fostering implementation of agreed key commitments” informed and together put the above mentioned proposals into practice (in order to provide targeted support to member countries experiencing difficulties in implementing the agreed goals).
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| **Reporting**Minutes of advisory group meetings will be made available to the BFUG board and to the BFUG on the protected part of the website.The co-chair(s) will present regular updates to the board and to the BFUG.Progress reports should be submitted at least three weeks before each board or BFUG meeting. In between meetings, updates should be circulated by the Bologna Secretariat via e-mail. The final report will be presented and discussed at the BFUG meeting at the latest in the second half of 2017. |
| **Meeting schedule:**[meeting schedule is just tentative, will be decided by the advisory group at a later stage]First meeting: January 2016Second meeting: June 2016Third meeting: November 2016Fourth meeting: January 2017Fifth meeting: March 2017 |
| **Liaison with other WGs’ and/or advisory groups’ activities*** WG 1 on “Monitoring”
* WG 2 on “Implementation - Fostering implementation of agreed key commitments”
* WG 3 on “New goals - Policy developments for new EHEA goals”
* AG 2 on “Support for the Belarus roadmap”
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| **Additional remarks**These terms of reference may be reviewed in the light of progress of the work, in agreement with the BFUG. |

1. Liaison with the WG 2 on “Implementation - Fostering implementation of agreed key commitments” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Liaison with the AG 2 on “Support for the Belarus roadmap” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Liaison with the WG 3 on “New goals - Policy developments for new EHEA goals ” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Liaison with the WG 1 on “Monitoring” [↑](#footnote-ref-4)