

WORKING GROUP 3 “POLICY DEVELOPMENT FOR NEW EHEA GOALS”

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS NEW LEARNERS

Paris, 13-14 June 2016

After review of the results of the discussion, the following preliminary proposals for new goals and actions under the theme New Learners suggested by the chairs of WG3 have been discussed once more with WG3 members in Stockholm:

- **We encourage European Higher Education Institutions to continue to draw on best practice, to permanently adapt to development and become learning institutions themselves.**
In light of the increasing pace of external changes brought about by digitalisation, globalisation, and demography, all higher education institutions need to adapt their working methods and find new ways to utilise new technology in order to serve the needs of all students.
- **The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers promote the development of a virtual Erasmus to provide an alternative in addition to physical international mobility.**
Participation in international mobility is unevenly spread among students and staff. However, international experiences are a key quality aspect for all higher education. New technology opens new possibilities for students to gain international experiences through other means than physical mobility.
- **The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers encourage higher education institutions to provide flexible study paths in terms of study pace, study aim and learning methods and agree to review and adapt higher education support systems, qualifications frameworks, credit systems and quality assurance, to provide the conditions for such increased flexibility.**
Learners have different needs in terms of for example study setting and pedagogical methods. Increasingly students require higher education institutions to provide flexibility in study pace. There is also an increased need to recognise micro qualifications and other forms of short blocks of study (recognition of prior learning). However, most higher education structures, and student support systems are still geared towards full time studies leading to a full degree.
- **The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers initiate a European “Higher Education Teaching Academy” to share knowledge and experiences among education institutions, academics and administrators. The Academy would also provide training for members of the institutions and an open educational resources platform to share best practices.**
Awarding and recognising excellent teaching will support teachers and institutions in adapting to developments in pedagogy. The Working Group proposes the BFUG should recommend EHEA Ministers to ask for a specific call on European level for good teaching projects.
Teaching quality is central to the provision of higher education. A European “Teaching Academy”, platforms for sharing good practice and peer-learning activities may contribute to this aspect. In the light of increased provision of Open Educational Resources across Europe, the establishment of a European platform is recommended in order to increase access to them.
- **The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an international human rights treaty of the United Nations intended to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. Parties to the Convention are required to promote, protect, and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities and ensure that they enjoy full equality under the law. The Convention states that persons with disabilities should be guaranteed the right to inclusive education at all levels, regardless of age, without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity.

It is agreed that the WG3 members will finalise these recommendations during the last meeting in September 2017. The aim will be to agree on about 3-4 recommendations for the whole group (not per topic).