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ENQA VICE-PRESIDENTS

THE ROAD TO TIRANA – ENQA’S INPUT TO THE BOLOGNA PROCESS



ENQA Members' Forum
19-21 April 2023
Tbilisi, Georgia

enqa.

THE BOLOGNA PROCESS

1999
Bologna Declaration
signed by 29 states

enqa.



Consultative
member of the
BFUG!

- The Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) is the executive structure supporting the Bologna Process in-between the Ministerial Conferences.
 - ENQA - oral or written reports for each BFUG meeting.



ROME Communiqué (2020)

2023 – 47 countries
(2 suspended)
4,000 HEI
38 millions of students



ROME COMMUNIQUÉ (2020)

Building the Future

- An Inclusive
- An Innovative
- An Interconnected

EHEA!

- We acknowledge the progress made in the development of **quality assurance systems** aligned with the ESG, and we commit to removing the remaining obstacles, including those related to the **cross-border operation of EQAR registered agencies** and the application of the **European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes**. We commit to ensuring that our external quality assurance arrangements cover **transnational higher education in the EHEA with equal standards as for domestic provision**. In view of the need for increased flexibility and openness of learning paths, smaller units of learning and greater synergies among higher education institutions, we encourage **an enhancement-oriented use of the ESG to support innovation in higher education and its quality assurance**.



The European Higher Education Area in 2020

*Bologna Process
Implementation Report*



Education
Audiovisual
and Culture
Executive Agency

- Before 1990, only four countries had an external quality assurance model in place (Denmark, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom).
- Today, ENQA has 55 members in 31 countries (2 agencies from 1 country suspended).

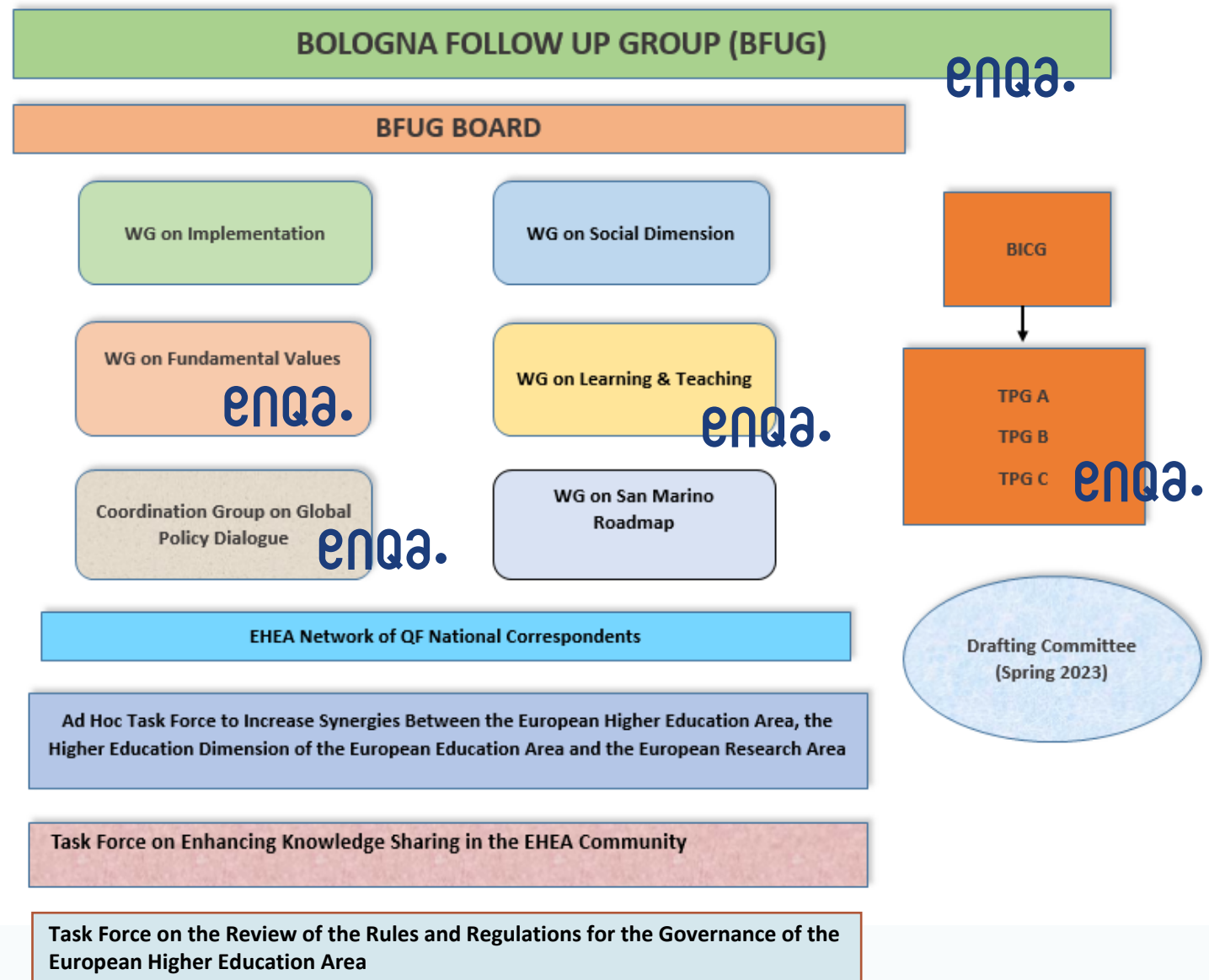
The development of higher education quality assurance systems has been one of the most significant features and drivers of change in the EHEA.

WORK PLAN 2021 - 2024

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Structure



WG ON FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

- To develop a comprehensive framework to further the monitoring and implementation of the fundamental values of the EHEA in the higher education systems of its members.



Framework Statements and Indicators are being developed, statements to be annexed to the Communiqué

- Institutional autonomy,
- academic freedom and integrity,
- participation of students and staff in higher education governance, and
- public responsibility for and of higher education.



Statement on Academic Freedom

Monitoring

- *de jure*
- *de facto*

FUNDAMENTAL VALUES & QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Role of QA and ESG in upholding fundamental values is regularly discussed – particularly in context of academic integrity
- Important to note that values are already addressed in the ESG
- ENQA advocates that no additional commitments for QA agencies are made in the WG statements, but that the topic is taken up in the revision of the ESG
- E4 group will attend the September meeting of the WG on fundamental values for a thematic session on the role of QA and to ensure synergies with the QA-FIT project and ESG revision plans

WG ON SOCIAL DIMENSION

- To support the EHEA members in developing social dimension policies that will create inclusive environment in higher education that fosters equity, diversity, and is responsive to the needs of local communities.
 - 1) Organizing **peer support activities** for social dimension to support the implementation of the Principles among the EHEA members.
 - 2) Developing **tools for the implementation of the Principles** for the social dimension.
 - 3) Defining **indicators and benchmarks** for the Principles
 - 4) Developing a **system of monitoring the implementation** of the Principles

WG ON SOCIAL DIMENSION

- ENQA raised concerns about the implications for QA agencies of the proposed indicators due to additional requirements for agencies to monitor aspects of social dimension.
 - Meeting of Board with WG co-chair to discuss the proposed indicators in Dec 2023
 - Follow-up meeting ENQA director – WG co-chairs, plus written comments
 - ENQA director presented to the WG in February 2023
- ➔ Revised document refers to ‘an appropriate body’ instead of specifically QA agencies, in order to reflect the diversity of agencies and their remit/operating context.

WG ON LEARNING AND TEACHING

- To support the members of the EHEA in developing successful ways to improve strategies for the enhancement of learning and teaching.
- Base its work on the Recommendations, thus, translating these into an operational action framework and – where possible – into measurable, qualitative, indicators.
- To strengthen the resilience of higher education system, with a **focus on future skills**, high quality learning, teaching, and assessment methods and strong links with research and innovation.
- Current activities:
 - PLAs on staff development, student-centred learning (June, ENQA to contribute), innovative L&T
 - Landscape scanning to identify system-level initiatives to support L&T

COORDINATION GROUP ON GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE

- To foster dialogue and build trust between the EHEA and other countries and macro-regions through exchange of knowledge and cooperation, with the aim of addressing overarching issues more effectively, such as achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
- The coordination group is also tasked with the organisation of the 2024 Global Policy Forum and Statement, and where possible other appropriate events during the work period.
 - Contact list global partners
 - Mapping of regional events & activities
 - Mapping of topics/themes and regions (looking for synergies between ongoing processes)
 - Organise webinar on themes of interest

COORDINATION GROUP ON GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE

- 3 regional subgroups:
 - Asia: chair Liesbeth Hens (BE/FL), members are Cyprus, France, Germany, Holy See, Romania, The Netherlands, EC, EUA, ESU, and UNESCO
 - Africa: chair Fiorella Perotto (EC), members are Austria, Belgium/FR, France, Germany, Holy See, Romania, the Netherlands, **ENQA**, EUA and UNESCO
 - Americas: chair Kathy Isaacs (IT), members are Austria, Holy See, Ireland, Malta, Spain, the Netherlands, EC and UNESCO



Let's Talk: Fostering Global Dialogue About Diversity in a Common Framework – CHEA Conference, January 2023

TPG C ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

50 members

43 countries + EC

- 19 HE authorities
- 21 QA agencies
- 4 both

6 stakeholders,
including ENQA

Working methods:

- work plan of the TPG
- action plans of member countries
- at least 2 meetings/year
- peer-learning activities
- staff-exchange program
- "umbrella project"

TPG C ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

- **Thematic orientations**

- Legislative framework in line with the ESG
 - Internal quality assurance
 - Enhancement-oriented use of the ESG
 - The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes
 - Cross-border Quality Assurance
 - Quality Assurance of transnational education
 - Quality assurance of micro-credentials
 - Quality assurance of European Universities
 - Digitalisation of quality assurance processes
- Work plan: <http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-C-QA>

TPG C ON QUALITY ASSURANCE – Staff mobility

Staff Mobility - call 1 (June 2022 – March 2023)

Applications Staff Mobility (I)	Received	Selected
Total	41	37
QA agency	34	31
Ministry	4	3
Stakeholder organisation	3	3

Staff Mobility - timing call 2

- Launch of the call for applications: **25 January 2023**
- Announcement of **selection results: June 2023**
- Staff mobility: 1 June 2023 and 29 February 2024

TPG C ON QUALITY ASSURANCE - PLA

PLAs aligned with the priorities identified by the Rome Ministerial Communiqué (2020)

1. **Aligning the legal framework with the ESG** (i.e. EHEA key Commitment) – Brussels, 1 September 2022
[Preparatory Analysis - Melinda Szabo](#)
2. **Cross-border QA and QA of Transnational education (TNE)** – Romania, 21 March 2022
[Preparatory Analysis - Melinda Szabo, Blazhe Todorovski](#)
1. **European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes** – Belgium, September 2023

➡ The PLAs include a preparatory note based on existing analyses, data and reports and are followed by a thematic analysis.

TPG C ON QUALITY ASSURANCE - WGs

WG on quality assurance of micro-credentials

- ➔ build on the work and findings of the MICROBOL project and develop practical tools for QA of micro-credentials
- Produce a **desk research** that will gather data and explore the different approaches to QA of micro-credentials across EHEA -> **survey (+interviews), writing group**
 - Preparation of **guidance for internal QA and external QA** of micro-credentials ➔ **writing group**
 - Preparation of key considerations for **non-HEI providers** of micro-credentials ➔ **writing group**
 - Explore how micro-credential providers can be included in **DEQAR**, conduct a feasibility assessment on quality label, and propose a harmonised data standard for information on micro-credentials ➔ **EQAR**

**Coordinated
by ENQA!**

TPG C ON QUALITY ASSURANCE - WGs

WG on quality assurance of European Universities Alliances

➔ build on the work of the EUNIQ project; investigate ways for successful implementation of external QA for European Universities.

- Carry out an analysis of legal and regulatory obstacles for quality assurance procedures of the European Universities Alliances (draft January 2023, final version soon)
- Feasibility study in 5 EHEA countries ➔ selection ongoing
- For this group of countries: 2 PLAs

TPG C ON QUALITY ASSURANCE - WGs

Digitalisation of QA processes

➔ mapping the situation of QA systems in EHEA countries from the perspective of digitalisation, as well as data management and sharing; reflecting on a medium-term vision for enhancing QA processes and procedures based on technology.

- Documentation
- Survey-based mapping: launched April 2023
 - Identification of good practices
- Interviews with some QA agencies representatives
- Reflection Group
- Thematic workshop: Nov 2024

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

- Drafting committee is a task force of the BFUG, entrusted with the task to prepare the draft Communiqué for the upcoming ministerial conference - Tirana.
- Drafting Committee is composed by the Co-Chairs of the last three semesters before the Ministerial Conference (Sweden, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Spain, Georgia, Belgium and Holy See) of the actual BFUG Work Plan, the Vice Chair and **one consultative member** (suggested by the consultative members and approved by the BFUG - ESU).
- The Drafting Committee started its work on first semester of 2023.

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Draft Roadmap: every version is discussed in the BFUG Board, BFUG, and feedback in writing from the BFUG members

- Draft Structure – June 2023

QA: ESG revision?

- Draft 0 – December 2023

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- Draft 5 – April 2024

**In parallel:
ENQA to prepare a
message for the
Ministerial Conference!**



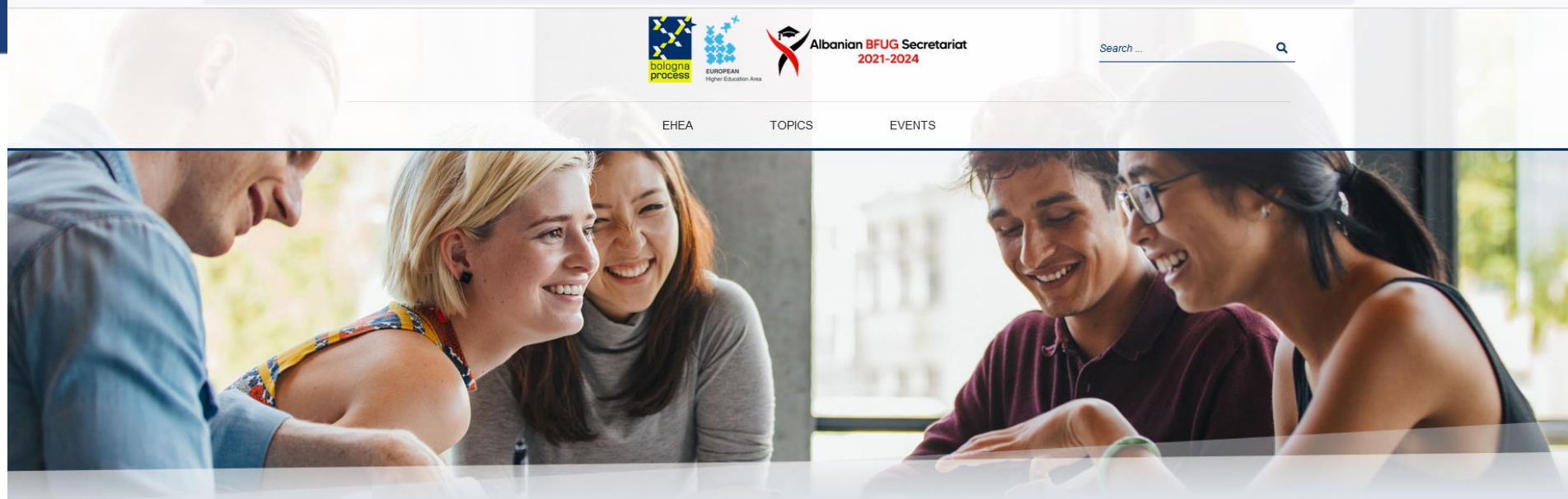
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EHEA

TOPICS

EVENTS



European Higher Education Area and Bologna Process

The European Higher Education Area (EHEA) is a unique international collaboration on higher education and the result of the **political will of 49 countries** with different political, cultural and academic traditions, which, step by step during the last twenty years, built an area implementing a common set of commitments: **structural reforms and shared tools**. These 49 countries agree to and adopt reforms on higher education on the basis of common key values– such as freedom of expression, autonomy for institutions, independent student unions, academic freedom, free movement of students and staff. Through this process, countries, institutions and stakeholders of the European area continuously adapt their higher education systems making them more compatible and strengthening their quality assurance mechanisms. For all these countries, the main goal is to **increase staff and students' mobility and to facilitate employability**. This official website of EHEA provides both general information on this process and detailed information for experts.



THANK
YOU

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<https://www.enqa.eu/>

enqa.