

Terms of reference for BFUG working groups

Name of the working group
Employability
Contact person (Chair) Keith Andrews Keith.andrews@dius.gsi.gov.uk
Composition (Please ensure the necessary balance with regard to geography, size, old vs. new, countries vs. organisations etc.) Countries: UK, Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, French Community of Belgium, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Spain. Organisations: EURASHE, ESU, EUA and Education International.
Purpose and/or outcome To report to BFUG on how to improve employability in relation to each of the three cycles as well as in the context of lifelong learning. To promote good practice in a range of areas, including <ul style="list-style-type: none">• involving employers in devising curricula;• provision of careers services;• employment and career structures within the public service that are fully compatible with the new degree system;• curriculum innovation based on learning outcomes;• awareness-raising amongst employers of the value of a bachelors qualification and associated learning outcomes; and• the recognition of degrees in the labour market across Europe.
Reference to the London Communiqué 3.5
Specific tasks The identification of good practice could be achieved through a combination of national surveys/reporting, research analysis and conference/seminars. The first step would be to establish a co-ordinating/working group to consider the remit set out in the London communiqué and decide how best to respond to that. It would be helpful if this could happen before the end of October or early in November so that a work programme can be agreed. Increasing employer engagement is key to improving employability. Any action that can be taken to raise the awareness of employers across Europe about the Bologna process and increase their involvement would be particularly helpful. It is important that employers should be more engaged in the Bologna process across all our countries than they currently are. A conference that focuses on the employers' perspective and involves a range of different employers, including medium sized enterprises, international corporations and public authorities, will be a key element of the work programme.

The group will also need to consider how best to disseminate examples of good practice, eg developing materials; use of websites.

Possible elements of a work programme for consideration –

- National surveys on employability.
- Report on existing studies on employability.
- Conference/seminar that focuses on the perspective of employers, including disseminating the findings of the above report.
- Seminar on lifelong learning to consider (a) the interdependency of qualifications frameworks, recognition of prior learning and flexible learning paths; (b) the relationship between the social dimension and lifelong learning; and (c) the role of higher education institutions in lifelong learning.
- Seminar on employability of Bachelor graduates.
- Development of materials for dissemination.

Reporting

Minutes of working group meetings will be made available to BFUG on the protected part of the website (by the Bologna Secretariat).

BFUG should also receive regular reports and updates.

To allow for good communication with BFUG as a whole and for the necessary consultations, progress reports should be submitted at least two weeks before each BFUG meeting. In between BFUG meetings, updates can be circulated by the Bologna Secretariat via e-mail.

Deadline for final report (draft version): 15 January 2009

Deadline for final version: 1 March 2009

Meeting schedule

There should be no working group meetings in the last two weeks before any BFUG meeting (see point on reporting).

First meeting – late October 2007. Business to include decisions on number and dates of further meetings.

Liaison with other action lines

Please specify how the cooperation will be organised

Need to link with any work on lifelong learning and to liaise closely with stocktaking group. This will be achieved through co-operation and communication with the appropriate working group chairs.

Additional remarks