



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH



Last update 31/10/2017

Advisory Group 4 "Diploma Supplement Revision"

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advisory Group on the Revision of the Diploma Supplement was mandated to support the Council of Europe, the European Commission and UNESCO in reviewing the Diploma Supplement, in cooperation with stakeholders. As the terms of reference of the advisory group state:

"The Advisory Group should give consideration to issues such as the following:

- *Ensuring it reflects the recent developments in higher education;*
- *Taking account of the revision of the ECTS Users' Guide;*
- *Reflecting on the digitalization of the Diploma Supplement;*
- *Basing it more closely on Learning Outcomes, increasing its usefulness in recognition procedures;*
- *Ensuring coherence between a review of the Diploma Supplement and the possible development of a "Doctoral Supplement" within the European Research Area;*
- *Ensuring close cooperation with the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee, the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO;*
- *Following up on the adoption of the same revised version of the Diploma Supplement within the framework of the Lisbon Recognition Convention as well as that of the European Union (Europass) and taking account of relevant developments in other parts of the world."*

Recommendation for the Paris Communiqué

- **The ministers support the revision of the DS template and guidelines proposed by the BFUG**
 - o **Proposed text:** *"(...) call upon the Council of Europe, the European Commission and UNESCO to adopt the proposed updated DS template and explanatory notes and call HEIs to revisit how DS can support the further development of student-centred learning."*
- **The ministers agree to monitor the implementation of the revised DS at the national and institutional level.**
 - o **Proposed text:** *"(...) continue monitoring the implementation of the DS within the regular monitoring and reporting exercise"*
- **The ministers acknowledge that the digitalization of the diploma supplement is the way forward towards enhancing its objectives and that technical solutions exist**
 - o **Proposed text:** *"(...) encourage HEIs to embark on the digitalization of DS and student data exchange, with a minimum commitment to collect student data in a structured, machine-readable data format, in line with the data protection rights."*

- **The ministers call upon the EC to introduce as a requirement the use of the DS for institutions participating in the ERASMUS+ programme**
 - o **Proposed text:** *“(...) call upon the European Commission to set the implementation of the new DS template, following the updates guidelines, as a requirement for HEIs participating in the Erasmus+ programme after 2020.”*