



Working Group 1 "Monitoring"

REPORT ON WORK PROGRESS

as of November 2017

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Terms of Reference

The purpose of the work of WG 1 is:

- *To continue to provide reliable, comparable data and to take stock of progress towards realising the European Higher Education Area;*
- *to make further progress in the construction of a structured and standardised monitoring system consisting of indicators and qualitative analysis;*
- *To allow for comparisons to be made between countries and to allow for monitoring implementation and other changes over time within countries as well as between countries;*
- *To prepare for 2018 an overall report on the implementation of the Bologna Process and on the fundamental values of the EHEA, integrating data collected by EUROSTAT, EUROSTUDENT and Eurydice*

The specific tasks outlined in the ToR:

- *To analyse the implementation report 2015 with a view to optimise and further improve the methodology;*
Status: completed
- *To analyse the experience in data collection and processing in the 2012-2015 period with a view to optimise and further improve the methodology resulting in improved coherence and integration of the data;*
Status: completed
- *To report on the key issues in the Yerevan Communiqué and to identify the way in which they should be addressed (quantifiable indicators or qualitative analysis); - completed.*
Status: The new issues emerging from the Yerevan communiqué have been identified and are included in the reporting. A number of new indicators have been developed in addition to updates of existing indicators.
- *To integrate the fundamental values of the EHEA in the reporting;*
Status: Academic freedom and institutional autonomy have been defined as the main areas for the reporting on fundamental values to explore, and a series of questions on these issues were asked in Questionnaire II. Other sources such as the Council of Europe Recommendation on Public Responsibility for Higher Education and the EUA Autonomy Scoreboard will be examined and referenced, while ESU data on student participation in governance structures will also be included in the report.
While the report will use the data provided by countries – examining how academic freedom and institutional autonomy are protected and supported - the introduction to this topic will also mention problematic national cases which have raised serious questions regarding the support and protection of values that have occurred within the EHEA since the Yerevan Communiqué. The WG feels that the report would lack credibility if it opens up debate on values but does not mention

cases within the EHEA that raise questions about potential violations of these values. The cases which would be mentioned would be drawn from monitoring by organisations such as Scholars at Risk or the Observatory of the Magna Charta Universitatum.

- *To define the survey questionnaire which should be based on a refined 2012-2015 questionnaire;*
Status: completed
- *To specify the indicators to measure progress in the 2015-2018 period and data required with the agreement of the BFUG;*
Status: The draft structure of the 2018 report, including the indicators, was presented to and agreed upon by the BFUG in Bratislava in December. The scorecard indicators for the report will be presented and agreed by the BFUG at the meeting in Tartu.
- *To allow collecting of information from the Bologna countries;*
Status: completed

The data collection

The data collection for the 2018 report has been completed, with all countries except Cyprus having submitted both questionnaires. Several countries have only partially completed either one or two of the questionnaires, i.e. questions have not been answered or there is inconsistency in the answers between the questionnaires. In these instances the data will be corrected and clarified in co-operation with the countries in question.

Eurostudent data and statistical data has been received and will be incorporated into the report. The statistical data will for the first time cover all Bologna countries. There will, however, be some gaps in some indicators where a country does not collect certain data at national level. Additional information will also be included from EUA, particularly in the chapter on learning and teaching, while a questionnaire to ESU members has also been completed and will be used to provide several indicators. Finally EQAR has cooperated with Eurydice in running a short survey on cross border higher education. All countries except Cyprus responded to this survey, and the data will now be integrated in to the report.

- *To assist Eurydice in their drafting of the overall report for approval by the BFUG in advance of the 2018 Ministerial Conference.* – The WG will assist Eurydice in their drafting of the overall report.

The working group had a first discussion on the draft report at its meeting in Brussels in October. The draft will be taken forward, and then sent to countries at the end of November for checking. A revised draft will then be presented to the BFUG for discussion at its next meeting in early 2018.

Proposed input for

a) the 2018 Ministerial conference and

- *To prepare an overall report on the implementation of the Bologna Process for 2018, integrating data collected by EUROSTAT, EUROSTUDENT and Eurydice.* - The Implementation report will be ready for the ministerial meeting in 2018.

b) the communiqué

Data from the report will feed into the communiqué, especially in the area of non-implementation.